

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Coastal West Africa Border Security Exercise

**Funding Opportunity Number:** DFOP0013992

**Deadline for Applications:** Monday, June 17, 2024, 5:00pm, EST

**Assistance Listing Number:** 19.701

**Deadline for Receipt of Questions:** Monday, June 3, 2024, 1:00pm EST

**Q&A Session:** Monday, June 10, 2024, 10:00am EST

**Submission to:** Austin Waring at [Waringa@state.gov](mailto:Waringa@state.gov)

### Question 1

- Can the funding be used to provide assistance and capacity-building activities for the participating units prior to the one-week exercise? This would include training workshops, procurement of necessary equipment, and other preparatory activities.
  - Yes

### Question 2

- Could you provide more details on the expected types of tactical and operational competitions, as well as the themes and topics that should be covered in the lectures and relationship-building exercises?
  - Each country has received training in rural border patrol operations. Specifically, selected participants have been trained to detect, identify, classify, respond to, and resolve border intrusions in rural environments. Training received was focused on small unit tactics, firearms handling, tracking, land navigation, emergency medical care, border security concepts, and operational planning. This exercise is designed to test those skills in a cross-border exercise or activity. Where practical, this will be conducted as a capstone exercise and may also include components of information from CT/P's planned information sharing exercise. Prospective applicants may propose the same exercise implemented multiple times (one in each country), similar exercises implemented multiple times (2 or more countries participating in each iteration), or some other combination thereof.
- **Question 4**
- What level of interoperability and coordination is expected between the participating units from different countries? Are there any existing frameworks or protocols that should be adhered to during the exercise?
  - This depends on the applicants' approach to implementing the exercise. See response above and please refer to the stated objectives of the program.

### Question 5

- Sustainability and Follow-Up: Are there expectations for follow-up activities or continued support post-exercise to ensure the sustainability of the program's impact? Can funds be allocated for follow-up evaluation and additional capacity-building activities after the initial exercise?

- The USG defers to the applicant on this. The expectation is that the exercise leads to greater interagency coordination.

#### Question 6

- Are there specific criteria or selection processes for choosing participants from the CT-funded border security units?
  - This will be done in consultation with CT.

#### Question 7

- Would we be able to coordinate and/or collaborate with local US representations to maximize buy-in and/or facilitate engagement with stakeholders?
  - Yes

#### Question 8

- What is the expected number of personnel from CT-funded border security units in Cote D'Ivoire, Benin and Togo expected to take part in the activity?
  - This will depend on the projected cost to establish and deliver the proposed exercise. Applicants should propose a number.

#### Question 9

- Given that Ghana shares a border with Cote D'Ivoire and Togo (and Burkina Faso) is there a possibility that they could also be included?
  - Yes, however, they do not have a CT-trained border security unit and their baseline knowledge will differ.

#### Question 10

- Is this exercise expected to run at the same time as the potential West Africa Information Sharing Exercise (Request for Statements of Interest and Capacity (RSOIC) Funding Opportunity Number#: DFOP0009891)
  - They may run concurrently, feed into one another, or separately.

#### Question 11

- Will CT specify which country it would like to host the exercise, or will this be assessed by the chosen implementer, or will it be an outcome of the NOFO mentioned above.
  - If conducted in a single location, the exercise will be hosted in Cote d'Ivoire.

#### Question 12

- Could you please indicate which police and gendarmerie forces are supported by the Bureau of Counterterrorism in Benin, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire, if we are to limit the exercise to these forces only?
  - Forces will be selected in consultation with and approval from CT. They all come from the Gendarmerie or National Police forces with CT investigative authority.

### Question 13

- What level of effort/coordinating function will USG have in initiating intros/facilitating engagement across 3 countries to organize this?
  - CT will facilitate introductions and coordination.

### Question 14

- Only 2 of the 3 countries mentioned share a border, can other neighboring countries be invited or is this limited to Ivory Coast, Togo, and Benin?
  - Other countries may be included. However, only Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, and Benin have received rural border patrol training from CT.

### Question 15

- Cross border coordination / deconfliction when it comes to counter terror and border security requires guidance and standard operating procedures that are generated at a very high governmental/law enforcement/military level – what role will tactical competitions play in fostering cooperation?
  - This will be done in consultation with CT.

### Question 16

- Who sends out the invites? Are they in the name of the USG or the implementing partner? (See question 1)
  - This will be done in consultation with CT.

### Question 17

- Are we expected to budget for lodging and per-diem for officers in visiting units?
  - Please refer to the Budget Guidance for New Awards document.

### Question 18

- We imagine that CT-funded border security units vary in size between the three countries mentioned. What is the total expected number of participants? What is the minimum number of participants acceptable? This has numerous “ripple effects” on the budget and subsequent assumptions.
  - This will depend on the projected cost to establish and deliver the proposed exercise. Applicants should propose a number.

### Question 19

- Will the USG extend the due date to Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to allow for the incorporation of USG answers to questions in the program design process?
  - No, extensions will not be granted.

### Question 20

- What country is hosting this exercise?
  - If conducted in a single location, the exercise will be hosted in Cote d'Ivoire.

#### Question 21

- Does the country hosting this exercise have a training facility or multiple sites to use
  - Yes

#### Question 22

- Does the CT Bureau want a shooting competition? If so, is there a training range?
  - CT defers to applicants to design the exercise as they deem fit.

#### Question 23

- Does the CT Bureau want a close quarter combat competition? If so, is there a training venue?
  - CT defers to applicants to design the exercise as they deem fit.

#### Question 24

- Does the training site have a secure facility for CCI, or does it need to be provided?
  - Not knowing the acronym for CCI, secure storage can be made available if coordinated in advance with CT.

#### Question 25

- Can we conduct a PDSS after the grant is awarded?
  - Yes

#### Question 26

- What is the total number of CT personnel attending the exercise?
  - This will be decided in consultation with CT.

#### Question 27

- Is the implementor budgeting for the partner nation CT forces air transportation, rental cars lodging, food, etc....
  - Please refer to the Budget Guidance for New Awards document.

#### Question 28

- Are the partner nation CT forces bringing weapons, NVGs, ammunition, or other sensitive items?
  - This will be decided in consultation with CT.

#### Question 29

- Is there a list of tactical tasks that the implementor needs to evaluate?
  - These will be developed in consultation with CT when designing the PMP.

### Question 30

- Can the CT Bureau provide a list of the target units tactical tasks they conduct?
  - Partner units are from Gendarmerie or National Police forces in each country with jurisdiction over CT cases.

### Question 31

- Does the CT Bureau want nighttime tactics tested in the scenario or competition?
  - CT defers to applicant.

### Question 32

- Is there a need to evaluate Logistics procedures during the exercise?
  - CT defers to applicant, though this is an interesting component to explore.

### Question 33

- Will the implementer need interpreters? If so, in what languages?
  - This will be decided in consultation with CT.

### Question 34

- What capabilities need tested, i.e.... aircraft infil response, ground infil response times, exploitation, logistics, and ect...?
  - These will be finalized in consultation with CT when designing the PMP.

### Question 35

- What Intelligence, Reconnoiter, and Surveillance capabilities do they have to use in the exercise?
  - Each country has received training in rural border patrol operations. Specifically, selected participants have been trained to detect, identify, classify, respond to, and resolve border intrusions in rural environments. Training received was focused on small unit tactics, firearms handling, tracking, land navigation, emergency medical care, border security concepts, and operational planning. This exercise is designed to test those skills in a cross-border exercise or activity. PDSS will also inform this component.

### Question 36

- Do the units have internal intelligence collection platforms?
  - Each country has received training in rural border patrol operations. Specifically, selected participants have been trained to detect, identify, classify, respond to, and resolve border intrusions in rural environments. Training received was focused on small unit tactics, firearms handling, tracking, land navigation, emergency medical care, border security concepts, and operational planning.

This exercise is designed to test those skills in a cross-border exercise or activity. PDSS will also inform this component.

**Question 37**

- Do the units have internal operational planning or training sections?
  - Yes

**Question 38**

- What are the top three threats that the CT border security units apprehend?
  - Terrorism, to include terrorist travel, movement of illicit materials to be used in attacks or to be used in operational support of terrorist groups.

**Question 39**

- Is the implementor responsible for Leahy vetting the participants?
  - Implementer will provide a list of participants to CT Bureau. CT Bureau will work with appropriate offices to Leahy vet participants.

**Question 40**

- Is the implementor responsible for bringing participating CT unit personnel into the country where the exercise is taking place?
  - No, the implementor is not fiscally responsible, but CT personnel may attend the exercise.

**Question 41**

- Would the Government consider providing an upper limit for the desired number of exercise participants/beneficiaries?
  - This will depend on the projected cost to establish and deliver the proposed exercise. Applicants should propose a number.

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**Question 43**

- Can the Government confirm that 10 pt font is allowed for text boxes, tables, and graphics?
  - All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

**Question 44**

- Could the Government confirm the Table of Contents is exempt from the page count for the Proposal?
  - The proposal should be 10 pages, excluding the title page, table of contents, attachments, audit, mandatory application forms.

#### Question 45

- The NOFO indicates that applicants should refer to the "Attached Budget Guidelines for FADR (December 2021)" for more information on budget format; however, the "Budget Guidance" form attached to the opportunity is dated October 2020. Could the Government verify that the attached form (Oct 2020) is the correct form?
  - Yes, the attached budget guidance is the correct form.

#### Question 46

- The NOFO indicates that a "summary budget should also be included using the OMB-approved budget categories [see SF-424A as a sample] in a separate tab." Could the Government confirm that the summary tab in the "1.03.1 Budget Guidance" spreadsheet has all necessary categories and does not require additional fields from the SF424A Form?
  - Yes

#### Question 47

- The NOFO indicates that applicants must submit budget proposals with requested funding broken down by funding type, based on the type of funding, the funding year, and/or the number of Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR) elements; could the Government confirm that indicating FY23 NADR funding for the entire budget workbook will be sufficient to meet this requirement?
  - Yes

#### Question 48

- The NOFO indicates "Please see attached Budget Guidelines for FADR (Dec 2021) for more information" but the "1.03.1 Budget Guidance" attachment does not include reference to FADR. Could the Government confirm that including a FADR data element will not be required for this opportunity?
  - This is part of the SF 424 forms that you will be prompted to complete in MyGrants with your application package.

#### Question 49

- Could the Government confirm that formatting requirements for the budget narrative are 12 pt, Times New Roman Font with no page limit?
  - There is no page limit for the budget narrative, and all Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

#### Question 50

- In order to allow for a robust set of offerors to submit for this opportunity, would the Government consider proposals from organizations that have not yet been audited but can submit professionally prepared regular monthly accounting statements or other evidence of audit readiness and compliance?
  - Applications must include a copy of your organization's most recent audit (single or program audit), if applicable, or the annual financial statement audit. Please refer to the 2 CFR 200 for requirements.

#### Question 51

- The spreadsheet "1.03.1 Budget Guidance for New Awards" indicates that in addition to the budget information required on SF-424A, applicants must provide the following three elements: [blank], detailed line-item budget, and budget narrative. Could the Government confirm that the first item should read "Summary Budget"?
  - Yes, the first line item is "Summary Budget"

#### Question 52

- Could the Government confirm offerors may provide two additional volumes: 1. for budget and budget narrative and 2. for SF 424 and associated documents?
  - The budget and budget narrative are considered attachments to the application and are not counted toward the page limit.

#### Question 53

- Would the Government confirm they will facilitate initial introductions to key stakeholders in relevant USG and PN organizations?
  - CT will facilitate introductions and coordination.

#### Question 54

- Would the Government accept a one-page executive summary before the Proposal and exclude it from the page count?
  - The proposal should be 10 pages, excluding the title page, table of contents, attachments, audit, mandatory application forms.

#### Question 55

- Can the Government confirm that the appropriation corresponding to this NOFO allows for applications from all four (4) types of organizations listed in the "eligibility information"?
  - Yes