

Saving Lives at Birth Round 6 Submission Instructions: Seed and Validation

All Expressions of Interest for seed and validation funding must be submitted through the online application platform; submissions will not be accepted via email. To submit your initial Expression of Interest, you must complete the form fields requesting basic information about the organization applying for the funding and about the innovation itself **AS WELL AS** upload PDF documents to our online application platform.

Please refer to the following guidance when drafting your Expression of Interest; there is not a standard application form to fill out for technical applications. This guidance includes presentation instructions for the technical application and supporting information (biographical descriptions and any letters of support). The guidance is structured to follow the evaluation criteria (found on Pages 9-11 of this document), so please ensure each section is addressed thoroughly.

Of note, applicants that proceed to further rounds of review will be asked to provide an estimated budget and budget narrative and past performance references.

A) Basic Applicant Information (via form fields the online platform)

- Name and address of applicant
- BAA and Addendum Number (BAA-GLOBAL HEALTH-2015/Addendum #3)
- Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, university, etc.)
- Point of contact (lead contact name; relevant telephone, fax, and e-mail information)
- Name and email of the Project Manager. Where joint partnerships include innovators from low-and middle-income countries, we encourage the partnership to designate the low- and middle-income country partner as the Project Manager.
- Concise title and objective of proposed activity in the proposed timeframe
- Submission category (**seed, validation**, or transition to scale)
- Domain of proposal – one or more of the following: science and technology, service delivery and/or demand creation.
- Focus of proposal– one or more of the following: maternal health, neonatal health, stillbirth.
- Technical focus of proposal – one or more of the following: accountability, affordability, availability of essential drugs and commodities, behavior change communication, diagnostics, drug discovery, gender/social norms/male engagement, family planning, incentives (service delivery), incentives (demand creation), medical devices, mHealth/e-health, nutritional supplements/food products, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), social marketing, training/supervision, transportation, women's and community empowerment, other

- Outcome and/or output metrics to be measured (If applicable): skilled attendance at delivery, antenatal care coverage, facility delivery rate, neonatal mortality rate, institutional neonatal mortality rate, proportion of newborns who received all four elements of essential newborn care, availability of essential medicines and commodities for MNH, percentage of facilities with functional bag and masks (neonatal size) in labor ward, percentage of facilities with availability of soap and running water or alcohol rub, number of pregnant women/ mothers/newborns receiving intervention, number of health facilities receiving intervention
- Country(s) where the proposed activities will be implemented; countries where proposed activities' direct beneficiaries reside
- Partner organizations (and emails) engaged in the project. Multidisciplinary/cross-sector teams are encouraged, where necessary, to ensure relevant scientific, social, and business expertise.
- Pending applications for funding from any of the Saving Lives at Birth partners
- A short, concise statement describing what the Savings Lives at Birth funding will achieve within the context of the overall activity. This statement should be specific to achievements with the Saving Lives at Birth funding and time period of award only and not reflective of longer-term goals if the project includes multiple donors and/or several stages.
- A summary paragraph/abstract of the project innovation in response to the following two questions:

1. What is the essence of your idea and how will it significantly improve and sustain the outcomes of the problem you have identified?

Consider including the following information in your response:

- *Rationale:* What problem will the project address? Please be specific.
- *Approach:* What approach(es) does this project take to address the problem (science and technology, service delivery, and/or demand creation)?
- *Objective, End point, and Impact:* What is the primary objective and expected end point of your project within the award period? Over the longer term? What is the total addressable impact of the project if successful?

2. What makes this project innovative and a significant improvement upon standard practice?

Note: The summary paragraph of all finalists and eventual award recipients may be used for public communication before and after the awards are made, including the time leading up to the Development*Change. The Saving Lives at Birth Partners reserve the right to make minor edits to summaries in order to enhance their readability for public communication. Because the summaries will be used publicly, proprietary information should not be disclosed in the project summary.

B) Technical Application

The Technical Application, or body of the Expression of Interest, should be presented in Sections I-IV according to the instructions within each section below. If an applicant chooses to include charts or graphs, add them within the appropriate section. All of the sections below, including the use of charts and graphs, should not exceed three pages for EOI. Applicants are requested to be specific about the geographic location(s) where the proposed activities will occur and the potential geographic or regional applicability. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to consult the evaluation criteria when formulating the technical application.

Section I. Innovation: What is your idea?

Use this section to briefly describe your idea and the project design. Make sure that your idea directly fits the scope of Saving Lives at Birth; otherwise your proposal may be disqualified.

- Indicate in one or two sentences **in bold** the essence of your idea – the specific problem you are addressing, your proposed solution, how it will be delivered, and who are the primary beneficiaries.
- Explain how your idea is substantially different from other approaches to address the stated problem and how it improves upon the best existing alternatives. If alternatives exist, please provide specific examples for comparison.
- Describe the scientific and/or technical basis for your idea and why you expect it to succeed.
- Describe the context and/or cultural relevance of your idea – explain how your idea is culturally informed and is designed to address the user's needs.
- Identify the level of funding requested and the specific project goals to be achieved with this level of funding within the two-year time frame for seed/validation funds. Identify the expected end point of the two-year time frame (ex. working prototype, validation of innovation in the field, etc). For validation funds, explain how your end point will provide sufficient evidence to show proof of concept.
- For applicants who received a grant under previous rounds of Saving Lives at Birth and are now seeking follow-on funding under this Addendum for the same project, describe how the project continuation builds upon the work, achievements, and lessons learned from the previous grant. Explain why continued investment is warranted.

Section II. Sustained Impact: How does your solution demonstrate its potential to scale and sustain health and development impacts?

Briefly describe your project's potential for scale and sustainability. Sustainability is defined as cost-recovery, sustained use, and sustainable impact. Discuss how the proposed solution will demonstrate the potential to sustain health and development impacts at full scale, if successful.

- Describe your vision for success in the context of the Saving Lives at Birth funding and in the longer term, i.e., at the conclusion of this Saving Lives at Birth award, if selected and successful, what is the expected end result? What is the expected

end result three years beyond the Saving Lives at Birth funding? What is your long-term exit strategy (start-up/spin-off company, license product, continued donor funding, etc.)? If continued donor funding, from what donors and how do you expect to sustain it?

- Describe the execution steps needed to move the innovation along a causal pathway to impact (consider your theory of change) What is your anticipated timeline to impact and how does Saving Lives at Birth support accelerate time to impact?
- Present a compelling value proposition (an analysis and quantified review of the benefits, costs and value that an innovation can deliver to target groups). This could also include voice of customer research, endorsement from specific government departments, public or private institutions, and/or evidence of co-funding to support sustainability
- For validation grants, describe the addressable market of this idea. How many people can be impacted by the innovation over the funding period?
- Provide summary of costs, including estimated costs of the innovation to the payer/implementer
- For revenue-generating projects, provide projections of the long-term expenses and revenue/income stream (noting any market assumptions for sources such as user fees, sales revenues, community contributions, etc.).

Section III. Execution and Evaluation Plan: How will you implement and test your plan?

Use this section to briefly describe the project implementation and evaluation plan specific to the results to be achieved with the funding from the Saving Lives at Birth partnership. The work proposed in your application must include a clear set of key experiments, methodologies or activities to be completed within the time period of the award that can sufficiently test the described outcome stated for the Saving Lives at Birth funding. Recognizing that Saving Lives at Birth funding may be one component of a larger project, identify any additional activities to be completed through other funding sources and/or over a longer period of time. Applications with vague descriptions, vague testing methodologies, or insufficient description of the role of the Saving Lives at Birth funding within the broader project scope will not be funded.

- Describe the project execution plan and critical milestones that demonstrate progress towards the project outcome to be achieved during the funding period. This includes any new technologies, tools or models to be developed, data to be generated and/or regulatory approvals sought.
- Provide a detailed schedule or timeline for the attainment of each milestone and/or objective. Describe the experimental plan to meet the critical milestones, objectives, and ultimately the project outcome.
- Describe the plan for measuring results and state specific indicators of success. Identify impediments or critical decision points that could require a revision in the work plan or milestones.
- Describe potential risks and/or harmful unintended consequences and how your project will address them.

- Describe how the work will be performed within the budget and in the time period allocated (two years).
- Identify the next steps of the project toward meeting its total addressable market if the experiments under this funding are successful.

Section IV. Team Capacity and Partnerships: Who will lead your work?

Use this section to briefly describe your team's capacity to perform the work proposed in the application, and any and all partners involved.

- Describe the project team and partners and explain their capacities to execute on the proposed work and describe how your partnerships contribute expertise relevant to the scale and sustainability of the project. Please include any Board/Advisory Board members as team members.
- Please identify any known needs/expertise to be filled.
- Describe any support and/or engagement of local/national partners in project design, implementation, and evaluation, including end-users.

C) Supporting Information (not included in page limit)

- *Brief* biographical descriptions of key project personnel (required)
- Draft letter of intent from any existing resource or implementing partners, with explicit mention of desire to co-fund, where relevant (recommended)
- Letters of support from countries in which you propose to test or operate (recommended for validation)

As a reminder, competitive proposals will address:

- The anticipated results to be achieved within the lifetime of the award
- The potential scale the innovation could reach
- The context in which the solution will be delivered (e.g., the user's needs and wants; community characteristics; connectivity with health authorities and existing health facilities; local leadership, government and civil society buy-in)
- How the solution will have a substantial impact on maternal and newborn health, including how the solution will (or can) be adapted to new environments for even greater impact
- Previous demonstrated proof-of-concept, if applicable
- How the solution will be delivered/administered (e.g., frequency of service, personnel, etc.)
- How the solution will improve upon the best existing alternative(s) available today and/or standard practice
- How the solution will (or can) integrate science and low-cost technology, service delivery and demand
- How the solution addresses underlying determinants of seeking maternal healthcare
- How the solution will work to avoid potentially harmful unintended consequences as applicable

- How the team is positioned to carry out the work successfully (including organizational and financial sustainability)
- The commitment of partners that contribute expertise relevant to the scale and sustainability of the idea as applicable
- The duration of the time required to implement proposed solution
- A concrete plan for measuring, evaluating, and sharing results
- How the solution addresses determinants of health, public policies, and other ethical / social / cultural / legal frameworks that could limit uptake

FOR LATER STAGES:

If you progress in the review process, you may be asked to provide the following information.

A) Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative

Applicants shall use provided templates to show how funds will be used to support the activities proposed in the proposal. The budget shall display unit costs (if applicable) and costs by year and shall include sub-cost applications for each component. Please note that the budget template includes costs up to four (4) years – seed and validation applicants should only budget costs for up to two (2) years and transition applicants may budget costs up to four (4) years. Estimated travel costs shall be documented in the travel template. The budget will contain the following categories:

1. Direct Labor:

Full-time/ part-time Employees

List the direct salaries and wages proposed in accordance with the applicant's personnel policies.

Fringe Benefits

If the applicant has a fringe benefit rate that has been approved by an agency of the U.S. Government, such rate should be used and evidence of its approval should be provided. If a fringe benefit rate has not been so approved, the application should propose a rate and explain how the rate was determined. If the latter is used, the narrative should include a detailed breakdown comprised of all items of fringe benefits (e.g., unemployment insurance, workers compensation, health and life insurance, retirement, FICA, etc.) and the costs of each, expressed in dollars and as a percentage of salaries

Consultants

List the work to be performed by any consultants, including level of effort (LOE), and list of their past work-history including daily rates.

2. Travel and Transportation (using travel provided template)

Indicate the number of trips, domestic, regional, and international, and the estimated costs for all personnel and consultants. Specify the origin and destination for proposed trips, duration of travel, and number of individuals traveling. Per diem should be based on the applicant's normal travel policies. Applicants should budget one team member to attend one-two meetings of the Saving Lives at Birth community **per year** (estimate of \$5000 per meeting for airfare, accommodation, registration and meals). This line item does not need to include the 2016 Development XChange. Please use the provided Excel spreadsheet and provide justification for the travel.

3. Equipment

List estimated types of equipment and if there are a high number of supplies provide a rational for these costs in the budget narrative.

4. Supplies

List supply items related to this project and if there are a high number of supplies provide a rational for these costs in the budget narrative.

5. Other Direct Costs (ODCs)

This includes communications, report preparation costs, passports, visas, medical exams and inoculations, insurance (other than insurance included in the applicant's fringe benefits), equipment, office rent, etc. The narrative should provide a breakdown and support for all other direct costs.

6. Sub-award(s)

List any goods and services being procured through a contract mechanism List any goods or services.

7. Indirect Costs

The applicant should support the proposed indirect cost rate with a letter from a cognizant U.S. Government audit agency, a Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement (NICRA), or with sufficient information for USAID to determine the reasonableness of the rates (For example, a breakdown of labor bases and overhead pools, and the method of determining the rate). **If the Contractor lacks a NICRA, then all costs shall be incorporated as direct costs.** Applicant organizations should be aware that if their award is managed by Grand Challenges Canada, indirect costs may not exceed 12 percent of allowable direct costs.

The program encourages applicants to focus resources on project implementation rather than salaries, equipment and supplies. The budgetary aspects of proposals will be reviewed for cost realism and cost effectiveness in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

Budget Narrative

While there is no page limit for the budget narrative, applicants are encouraged to be as concise as possible, but still provide the necessary details. The following detailed information from the applicant is required:

- The budget should be for a period of years that correspond to whether you are planning a seed, validation, or transition project and using the budget template provided.
- If the applicant has established a consortium or another legal relationship among its partners, the cost application must include a copy of the document establishing the parameters of the legal relationship between the parties. The agreement should include a full discussion of the relationship between the applicants including identification of the applicant with which USAID will treat for purposes of award administration, identity of the applicant which will have accounting responsibility, how agreement effort will be allocated and the express agreement of the principals thereto to be held jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of the other.

In addition, this budget narrative is expected to include:

- Justification of costs associated with the program, including staff, consultants, travel, equipment, supplies, etc.
- The breakdown of all costs associated with the program.
- The breakdown of all costs according to each partner organization involved in the program.
- The costs associated with external, expatriate technical assistance and those associated with local in-country technical assistance.
- The breakdown of any financial and in-kind contributions of all organizations involved in implementing this program.
- Potential contributions of non-USAID or private commercial donors to this program.
- Procurement plan for commodities, goods and services (if applicable).

In all cases, funding levels will correspond to the scope and scale of innovations. The scope and scale is expected to vary between innovations and the appropriate scope and scale for each innovation should be defined and justified; funds will be allocated to reflect the scope of testing as well as the funds needed to build to scale.

B) Past Performance references

Please complete past performance information for three (3) past performance references which describe any contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements which the applicant organization, as well as any consortia or joint venture partners and any subcontractors or subawardees that will perform a substantive role in the applicant's program, has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past three years. Please include the following information: name and address of the organization for which the work was performed; name and current telephone number and email address of responsible representative from the organization for which the work was performed; contract/grant name and number (if any), the period of contract/grant performance, annual amount received for each of the last three years and beginning and end dates; brief description of the project/assistance activity and key project accomplishments / results achieved to date.

It is recommended that the applicant alert the contacts that their names have been submitted and that they are authorized to provide past performance information when requested.

Please note that the Partners reserve the right to obtain past performance information from other sources including those not named in the submission.

Criteria for Seed and Validation Awards*Stage 1: Innovation Screen*

Partners will conduct an initial Innovation Screen based on the Expression of Interest. Reviewers will screen against the criteria listed below.

1. Innovation

Demonstration that the proposed solution offers a creative approach to the problem outlined in the challenge and is clearly differentiated from existing approaches in the proposed setting (i.e. has the potential to provide significant improvements in cost, quality, and/or access to essential health services, relative to standard practice and/or current offerings in the proposed market).

2. Sustained Impact

Demonstration that an investment in the proposed solution could result in transformational gains in maternal and newborn survival and in the prevention of stillbirth globally.

The solution should:

- Demonstrate appropriateness for implementation in hard-to-reach, low-resource settings in low- and/or middle-income countries, with potential to be scaled in various other settings.
- Represent a top priority in the proposed setting (geographic and context of care).
- Provide a clear and compelling description of the potential scale at which the innovation could be applied.
- Have the potential to be sustained beyond Saving Lives at Birth funding.

Stage 2: Technical Review

If the Innovation Screen indicates the Expression of Interest merits further consideration, evaluation panels will review the full submission, including supporting documents, against the criteria listed below.

1. Innovation

Demonstration that the proposed solution offers a creative approach to the problem outlined in the challenge and is clearly differentiated from existing approaches in the proposed setting (i.e. provides significant improvements in cost, quality, and/or access to essential health services relative to standard practice/current offerings in the proposed market).

2. Sustained Impact

Demonstration that an investment in the proposed solution could result in transformational gains in maternal and newborn survival and in the prevention of stillbirth globally.

The extent to which the solution:

- Demonstrates appropriateness for implementation in hard-to-reach, low-resource settings in low- and middle-income countries, with potential to be scaled in various other settings.
- Represents a top priority in the proposed setting (geographic and context of care).
- Demonstrates appreciation for gender, social, cultural, and environmental considerations.
- Provides a clear and compelling description of the potential scale at which the innovation could be applied.
- Has the potential to be sustained beyond Saving Lives at Birth funding

- Provides a realistic strategy of how health and development impacts will be sustained at scale, including a realistic timeframe and pathway to reach the point of revenue breakeven for revenue-generating projects or continued support from other sources such as local governments, donors, private foundations, etc. for projects not generating any income or revenue?
- Demonstrates a specific and segmented understanding of the target population, i.e. a clear articulation of the innovation's value proposition and evidence of demand (including willingness and/or ability to pay)?

3. Execution and Evaluation Plan

- Extent to which the proposed project objectives and interim milestones are appropriate, feasible and technically sound within the budget and time allocated for seed or validation funding.
- Extent to which the project has proposed a clear, measurable and realistic monitoring and evaluation plan, including key indicators to measure project success. Reviewers will examine the quality of the proposed indicators of the outcomes/results you expect to achieve and the evaluation method(s) you propose to use.

4. Team Capacity and Partnerships

- Depth and breadth of organizational capacity, including talent, experience and leadership of key project personnel and/or partners (e.g., relevant domain knowledge and experience, track record of professional success relevant to the proposal and its applicability to the program objective).
- Demonstration of support and/or engagement of local/national partners in project design, implementation, and evaluation, including end-users.

5. Pioneering

Applications with highest potential to achieve sustainable, groundbreaking impact and/or to become true game changers in the field.