

BAA Issuance Date: May 3, 2018

Amendment 001 Issue Date: May 24, 2018

BAA Open Period: May 3, 2018 to May 2, 2019

BAA Questions Due: May 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (Washington DC Time)

Current Call for Expressions of Interest Due: June 1, 2018 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (Washington DC Time)

Issue Type: Amendment 001 - Please see highlights in yellow and Attachment 1 Questions and Answers.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Broad Agency Announcement

For

Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

Contents

I. Overview

II. Problem and Challenge Statements

III. The BAA Process

STAGE 1 - SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

STAGE 2 - CO-CREATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

STAGE 3 - REVIEW BY THE PEER AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

STAGE 4 - AWARD DETERMINATION

IV. Additional Considerations

V. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

VI. Information Protection

VII. Obtaining the BAA and Addenda

VIII. Submission Requirements

I. Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is issuing this Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) to seek participants to co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate on research and development innovations to prevent and treat nutrition vulnerabilities in complex environments. USAID invites organizations and companies to submit an Expression of Interest, as provided below.

As described in section II of this Announcement, USAID, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), and the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), share a common interest in supporting the fight to end chronic and acute malnutrition. Each of the organizations may participate in co-creation, as described in Section III of this announcement. USAID and ECF reserve the right to fund,

BAA No. 7200AA18R00044- Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

co-fund, or not fund a concept that is generated from the BAA process. DFID does not intend to fund concepts through this process.

This BAA and any subsequent Addenda will allow co-creation and co-design to the maximum extent to create high-quality, effective partnerships with great efficiency in time and resources. USAID will invite selected organizations, as detailed below, to co-create research and development (R&D) solutions to the Problem and Challenge Statements, including those organizations that have ideas, expertise, resources, and/or funding to add to potential solutions.

Co-Investing: USAID wants to align goals with partners under this BAA to facilitate shared responsibility, shared risk, and shared resourcing. Shared resourcing requires that cash and other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information, are directed towards reaching the solution to the Problem/Challenge. Co-investing does not require equal shared resources (such as 1:1 leverage), but rather resource contributions that are appropriate to the specific project's objectives, considering the comparative advantages brought by the participation of each party.

A. Federal Agency Name:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

B. Opportunity Title:

Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments

C. Announcement Type:

The current call for Expressions of Interest under this BAA must address the Problem and Challenge Statement cited in the BAA.

USAID may issue Addenda to this BAA that focus on specific problems, solutions, scalability opportunities, feasibility studies and other research and development initiatives addressing the problem and challenge statements described. Future addenda may be issued separately with additional requirements for evaluation and administrative information, such as requirements for expressions of interest, concept papers, and response deadlines. The terms of the BAA will apply to each Addendum.

D. Opportunity Number: 7200AA18R00044

E. Authority:

This BAA is issued under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 35.016(c). This is not a FAR Part 15 Procurement.

F. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

98.001 USAID Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas

II. Problem and Challenge Statements

PROBLEM: Malnutrition is the number-one driver of the global burden of disease¹ and is associated with almost half of all deaths of children under five years, or about 3.1 million child deaths annually.² In recent years, the global community has acknowledged the importance of improving global nutrition through such milestones as the World Health Assembly's (WHA) Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition in 2012; the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action in 2014; goals developed by and committed to by the United Nations (UN), including, "*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*" by 2030; and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Addressing malnutrition will require concerted, coordinated efforts to scale up what works, and to find effective, innovative, and scalable solutions to the most intractable drivers of poor nutrition. Innovation is particularly needed in chronically nutritionally and food-insecure contexts -- in other words, complex environments where there are persistent or recurrent crises, such as drought, conflict or instability. In these environments poor nutrition is likely holding back efforts to build resilience. Improved nutrition can both be a maker and marker of effective inclusive development.

CHALLENGE: As set out at the 2017 Milan Global Nutrition Summit, USAID, DFID and ECF, have a common interest in supporting the fight to end chronic and acute malnutrition. We recognize this is particularly a problem among adolescent girls and mothers and children in the first "1,000 days," the critical period between pregnancy and a child's second birthday, and especially those populations living in complex environments.

This collaboration intends to harness USAID and DFID's commitments to scale up nutrition interventions that prevent and treat undernutrition, alongside ECF's capacity to pursue innovative and cost-effective approaches to improve nutrition. Furthermore, we are interested in improving the effectiveness of interventions, including treatment of acute malnutrition. This includes sustainable, cost-effective and scalable innovative approaches to prevent and treat nutrition vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and mothers and children in the 1,000 days period. This collaboration focuses in the first instance on East Africa, especially regions of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda that face chronic, complex environmental and developmental challenges and where chronic and acute malnutrition, and food insecurity remain a substantial challenge.

The sought-after innovations may include improving cost effectiveness, building human capital, enhancing economic and social resilience, and bolstering positive behavior change, among other R&D

¹ International Food Policy Research Institute. 2016. *Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030*.

² [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60937-X.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(13)60937-X.pdf)

objectives. Innovations should have the potential for impact on wider learning. Innovations may be across sectors, including health, agro-food systems, and humanitarian assistance. Applicants should clearly articulate a hypothesis and demonstrate a proposed solution that appears to be scalable in real world settings. Areas of interest should all address sustained reductions in chronic and acute malnutrition including, but not limited to:

1. How to bring proven pilots to scale in a sustainable manner.
2. Innovations to maximize impact across sectors, including health, agriculture and humanitarian assistance.
3. New approaches that nudge behaviors, use other behavioral economics approaches, or technologies to catalyze sustained positive change.

III. The BAA Process

The resources made available under this BAA will depend on the concepts received and the availability of funds from USAID and other resource partners. Some award types may not include any funding. The award process under this BAA has the following steps:

STAGE 1 - SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOIs)

Organizations must submit an EoI addressing the criteria below, in the format required in Section VII. More than one EoI may be submitted by an organization.

USAID will review EoIs to determine the extent to which each EoI addresses the criteria/eligibility requirements stated below. Not all organizations that submit an EoI will necessarily be invited to proceed to Stage 2. Due to the number of EoIs expected to be received, USAID may be unable to provide details on why an EoI is not selected for further consideration.

Required Content for EoIs:

1. EoIs must indicate the research or development idea that will work towards a solution to the Problem and Challenge Statements, by increasing knowledge and understanding of potential solutions, exploiting scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques, advancing the state of the art, or using scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service).

Any awards issued under this solicitation will be for Applied Research or Development, as those terms are defined in FAR 35.001, as follows:

“Applied research” means the effort that:

- (a) normally follows basic research,³ but may not be severable from the related basic research;
- (b) attempts to determine and exploit the potential of scientific discoveries or improvements in technology, materials, processes, methods, devices, or techniques; and
- (c) attempts to advance the state of the art. When being used by contractors in cost principle applications, this term does not include efforts whose principal aim is the design, development, or testing of specific items or services to be considered for sale; these efforts are within the definition of “development,” given below.

“Development” means the systematic use of scientific and technical knowledge in the design, development, testing, or evaluation of a potential new product or service (or of an improvement in an existing product or service) to meet specific performance requirements or objectives. It includes the functions of design engineering, prototyping, and engineering testing; it excludes subcontracted technical effort that is for the sole purpose of developing an additional source for an existing product.

- 2. EoIs must demonstrate the potential to have a significant impact (i.e., breakthroughs, not incremental improvements), that ultimately could achieve that even greater impact at scale.
- 3. EoIs must indicate the background and expertise of the organization, and the managerial and technical staff or team proposed for engagement in the endeavor.
- 4. EoIs must indicate what, if any, co-investment resources are available to bear on the solution, including those from the submitting organization and those from other third party businesses, donors, foundations, or other organizations. Such resources may include cash and other resources, both tangible and intangible, such as in-kind contributions, expertise, intellectual property, brand value, high-value coordination, and access to key people, places, and information, any if applicable.
- 5. USAID will also consider the reputation of an organization and its past experience in assessing the ability of the organization to contribute to the co-creation and respond to the Challenge/Problem Statements.

STAGE 2 - CO-CREATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER

During Stage 2, key stakeholders will co-create potential solutions to the Problem/Challenge by brainstorming and innovating solutions and resources, potentially leading to concept papers that USAID or other resource partners will fund.

³ The primary aim of basic research is a fuller knowledge or understanding of the subject under study, rather than any practical application of that knowledge. (FAR 2.101)

Co-Creation

USAID will review the EoIs and select those organizations that USAID determines have addressed the criteria/eligibility requirements stated herein to an extent that the organization will make a significant contribution to the co-creation. The co-creation will include USAID and other partner organizations, including DFID and ECF.

Co-creation may take the form of a workshop, conference, meeting, or other the method at the discretion of the USAID. The method of co-creation for this BAA will be determined at a later date, and communicated directly to those organizations invited to participate. An invitation to co-create is not a guarantee of funding nor is it a guarantee of moving forward to Stage 3. For more information on co-creation and its design approaches, see <https://usaidlearninglab.org/library/co-creation-discussion-note-ads-201>.

Unless provided otherwise, organizations are responsible for all costs incurred by the organization to participate in the co-creation.

Not all organizations that participate in the co-creation may be invited to co-develop a Concept Paper.

Co-Development of Concept Papers

Working together, USAID and the potential partner(s) will collaborate on Concept Paper(s), taking a holistic approach to addressing the Problem/Challenge based on learnings from the co-creation, and identifying creative approaches to resourcing projects. Such Concept Papers may include additional implementing and co-investment partners to complement the project, including partners that offer reasonable cost sharing, leverage, or other resource arrangements.

The Concept Paper, generally 5-10 pages, will further detail and explain the project.

STAGE 3 - REVIEW BY THE PEER AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD

USAID and the organization(s) connected with each Concept Paper will present the Concept Paper to the Peer and Scientific Review Board, comprised of experts from USAID, partners, and/or outside parties. The Peer and Scientific Review Board will review Concept Papers and recommend which applicants should be considered Apparently Successful Partners. Using its technical expertise, the Peer and Scientific Review Board will recommend whether to move forward with the project, including revisions/additions to the project, and potential partners and resources.

Not all organizations that present a Concept Paper to the Peer and Scientific Review Board will necessarily be invited to move to Stage 4.

STAGE 4: AWARD DETERMINATION

USAID will review the Peer and Scientific Review Board's recommendations and consider other relevant information, such as resource availability and Agency priorities, and will make a determination as to whether to move forward with the Concept Paper. For Concept Papers that demonstrate a potentially valid innovation to address the Problem/Challenge Statement, the Contracting/Agreement Officer will assess the organization's responsibility and identify the anticipated instrument type to facilitate project design.

Request for Additional Information. USAID will work with organizations to co-design the project and assist the organization in providing additional information with respect to the organization's technical approach, capacity, management and organization, past performance, and budget, as well as representations and certifications, as needed.

Final Review and Negotiation. The USAID Contract/Agreement Officer will engage in a final review, negotiation, responsibility determination, price/cost reasonableness determination, and other required reviews, and will co-develop/draft an award instrument with the Apparently Successful Partner. If the Apparently Successful Applicant and USAID cannot arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement, USAID may cancel the project at no cost to the Government.

Award. Awards under this BAA will be made to the Apparently Successful Partners on the basis of their ability to achieve solutions to the Problems/Challenges, as provided herein. The standard clauses or provisions for USAID-funded awards are generally prescribed by law and regulation and may vary considerably by award type. Information regarding clauses and provisions will be offered to the Apparently Successful Applicant when the award type is identified.

There are several ways awards may be funded under this BAA, including: 1) USAID-only funded awards; 2) ECF-only funded awards; and 3) awards co-funded by USAID and ECF. Any awards funded by USAID only will follow USAID's Acquisition and Assistance (A&A) policies for moving from EoI to award. The awarding organization will be determined after Stage 3 of the BAA process. The process described in this Stage 4 and the award terms may vary if the award will be funded in whole or in part by ECF.

Evaluation Criteria for EoI and Concept Papers:

EOIs and Concept Papers will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1. Idea/Approach:** Novelty, creativity and soundness of the R&D idea/approach and its relevance to the Problem and Challenge Statements. The idea/approach should be realistic, scalable, and reflect sound knowledge of the technical and country landscape.
- 2. Partnership Expectations and Value:** Strengths of the organization or consortium as a partner, including ability to make a valuable contribution to the challenge issued.
- 3. Impact:** The likelihood of generating substantial, scalable and sustainable impact on the issues discussed in the Problem and Challenge Statements.

4. Past Experience: USAID also will consider the organization's past experience in assessing the ability of the organization to contribute to the co-creation.

IV. Additional Considerations

A. EoIs will not be evaluated against other EoIs, but solely on whether USAID determines that the submitter will be a valuable contributor to the co-creation process. USAID may limit the number of initial submissions selected to move forward based on efficiencies.

B. Concept Papers will not be evaluated against other Concept Papers, but solely based on USAID's determination that the Concept Paper will successfully address the Problem and Challenges, using the criteria set forth herein. USAID may limit the number of Concept Papers selected to move forward based on efficiencies.

C. Decisions regarding USAID's pursuit of a particular project, technology, or relationship will be based on all available information, evidence, data, and resulting analysis.

D. Eligibility Information. Public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit organizations, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible to receive awards under this BAA. All organizations must be determined to be responsive to the BAA and responsible to perform or participate in the final award.

E. Funding availability and amounts will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.

V. Specific Rights Reserved for the Government under this BAA

The Government reserves specific rights, in addition to rights described elsewhere in this document or by law or regulation, including:

1. The right to award multiple awards, a single award, or no awards.
2. The right to make award without discussions, or to conduct discussions and/or negotiations, whichever is determined to be in the Government's interest.
3. The right to accept EoIs/Concepts in their entirety or to select only portions of EoIs/Concepts for award or co-investment.
4. The right to select for award an instrument type that is appropriate to the specific development context, partner relationship, and Concept Paper selected for award.

Instruments types include, but are not limited to, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, public-private partnerships, Inter-Agency Agreements, Government to Government Agreements, Donor to Donor Agreements, and Memorandums of Understanding. In addition, the Government may craft a new instrument type to meet the needs of a specific relationship.

5. The right to co-create projects with one or more organizations under the BAA, when it is in the best interest of the Government.
6. The right to request any additional, necessary documentation upon initial review. Such additional information may include, but is not limited to, a further detailed Concept Paper, budget, and representations and certifications.
7. The right to fund or co-invest in Concept Papers in phases, with options for continued work at the end of one or more of the phases.
9. The right to award instruments under this BAA that do not commit or exchange monetary resources.
10. The right to remove organizations from the BAA process if USAID determines that it is no longer in the best interests of the Government to proceed with the organization.

VI. Information Protection

USAID's goal is to facilitate research and development that will lead to innovative, and potentially commercially-viable, solutions. Understanding the sensitive nature of submitters' information, USAID will work with organizations to protect intellectual property.

EoIs should be free of any intellectual property that the organization wishes to protect, as the EoIs will be shared with USAID partners as part of the selection process. However, once organizations have been invited to advance beyond co-creation, organizations can work with USAID to identify proprietary information that requires protection.

Therefore, organizations making submissions under this BAA grant to USAID a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to use, disclose, reproduce, and prepare derivative works, and to have or permit others to do so to any information contained in an EoI submitted under the BAA. If USAID further engages with the organization regarding its submission, the parties can negotiate further protection of the organization's intellectual property.

Organizations must ensure that any submissions under this BAA are free of any third party proprietary data rights that would impact the license granted to USAID herein.

VII. Obtaining the BAA and any Addenda

This BAA and any Addenda, if applicable, can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.fbo.gov>. Issuance of this BAA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID or any of its funding partners to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of EoIs/Concepts. Further, USAID reserves the right to reject any or all EoIs/Concepts received.

VIII. Submission Requirements

EoIs submitted in response to this BAA must:

- A. Be in English, no more than 2 pages in length total, and no smaller than 12 point font;
 - B. Be submitted electronically to **BAANutrition@usaid.gov**;
 - C. Contain a header with the following information (included in the page count):
 - a. Respondent Name/Group and Contact Information;
 - b. Response Title;
 - c. BAA Addendum Name/Number;
 - d. Optional graphic that fits on an 8.5"x11" or A4 piece of paper (included in the page limit);
 - D. Be in .pdf, .docx, or .odf format
- If a respondent does not follow the instructions set forth herein, the respondent's EoI may be eliminated from further consideration.
 - USAID will not pay for any EoI preparation costs.
 - EoIs submitted in response will be received by electronic submission only. Facsimile or hardcopy submissions will not be accepted.
 - All EoIs submitted in response to this BAA are due no later than the **June 1, 2018 at 10:00 AM ET (Washington DC Time)**. Late EoIs will not be considered.

Questions

Any questions regarding this BAA should be submitted via email to this email address:

BAANutrition@usaid.gov with "Questions" in the subject line along with the BAA/Addendum Reference Number. Questions are due **May 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM ET (Washington DC Time)**.

Responses to questions received prior to the deadline along with any applicable amendments to this BAA will be posted on fbo.gov and grants.gov.

ATTACHMENT 1 – QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Is there an EoL form to fill?

Answer: There is no EOI template. Please follow the submission instructions in the BAA.

2. Is Mozambique considered as an eligible country under this BAA?

Answer: For this EOI USAID and ECF are focused only on Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya. All expressions of interest responding to this BAA should provide innovations relevant for one or more of these four countries. However, the location of the activity is not restricted to these four countries and ultimately the solution(s) could potentially be applied to any number of countries.

3. Is there any budget limitations?

Answer: The focus on the Broad Agency Announcement process is to focus on the development problem and challenge statements as specified in the announcement rather than budget amount or any potential funding instruments.

Currently, it is estimated that the Bureau for Food Security has a total of \$2M of funding available for obligation. This does not represent additional funding that may potentially be available from other sources. Exact budgetary amounts or ceilings and or number of awards are not known as this stage of the process and may vary. Funding level and availability will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.

The estimates cited on grants.gov (\$2M and 4 awards) should not limit the ideas that come in and does not limit other sources of funding that may happen as result of the BAA.

4. The BAA indicates resources will depend on concepts received and availability of funds, while grants.gov lists a ceiling of \$2M. To the extent possible, can USAID clarify whether concepts should be proposed with a funding threshold in mind?

Answer: See answer to question 3.

5. Can USAID clarify the BAA's priority countries. Should EOIs focus on Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya, or can other countries be considered?

Answer: Please see question 2.

6. Will policy or governance innovations also be considered within this BAA?

Answer: USAID is not specifying one approach. Any innovation that meets the definition of research or development under the FAR definitions as outlined in the BAA Section 3 with an ultimate objective of addressing direct or underlying determinants of undernutrition will be considered.

7. Should the problem statement and potential for impact be specific to East Africa especially the countries outlined—Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda or should applicants be taking a global perspective?

Answer: Please see question 2.

8. Are all innovations that have the potential to reduce stunting and wasting in countries with complex environments eligible?

Answer: Please see question 6.

9. Would you encourage applicants to nominate personnel who will be attending the meeting/ conference? If so, how many such names should we put forward?

Answer: USAID is interested in idea to be submitted, invitations to a co-creation workshop will stem from the ideas.

10. Is the meeting/ conference anticipated to take place in Washington, D.C. or East Africa or somewhere else?

Answer: We anticipate the workshop will be in the Washington DC area with virtual participation possible.

11. Can USAID confirm whether an implementation timeline is required? If so, may it be included as an annex?

Answer: An implementation timeline is not requested at this point.

12. Is a cover page allowed? If yes, can the cover page include contact information for the organization, instead of in the header?

Answer: Cover pages are not required for the EOI submission. The EOI should contain a header with the required information cited in Section VIII page 10. For EOI submissions, the maximum number of page limit is 2 pages total single page, this includes any cover letters. Submissions exceeding the page limitation will not be reviewed.

13. At this time, does USAID have a specific date (or dates) for the co-creation workshop?

Answer: Dates will be provided to the invitees in June 2018. It is anticipated that the co-creation workshop, whether in person or any other means, will be held the second week of July 2018, however this is subject to change based on the Expressions of Interest received, and Agency need.

14. Can USAID provide any indication of the timeline for the entire process - through Step 4?

Answer: We do not have a timeline for how long the process would take. Some BAA processes have taken as short as six weeks from receiving Expressions of Interest to award. Others have taken 1.5 years. It really depends on the Agency's research challenges, and the ideas we receive. We usually do not have a better understanding of timeline until we get into phase two.

Can USAID elaborate on what is meant by "attempts to advance the state of the art" under the applied research section, section 1(c), page 5?

Answer: For the purpose of this BAA, we are interested in innovative approaches under Research and development as defined in FAR 35.001.

15. 2 weeks ago we submitted a separate EOI to the Feed the Future Global Food Security BAA Solicitation (7200AA18R00032). That EOI focused strongly on Nutrition Innovations, and is likely to be highly applicable to the current BAA No. 7200AA18R00044. We submitted the FtF GFS BAA before learning about the 7200AA18R00044- Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environments call. Our questions is if USAID would honor a submission of an EOI to the 7200AA18R00044- Nutrition Innovations in Complex Environment BAA that builds on the same ideas. We intend to re-work the EOI, but the basic proposed ideas would be similar. Can you kindly let us know if that would be accepted?

Answer: All submissions for this BAA should be sent to the email address BAAnutrition@usaid.gov. If relevant, organizations may submit a similar or the same submission as they have under a previous solicitation.

16. Can you kindly confirm if any other countries or geographic regions will be considered beyond E. Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda)? Thank you for your clarification.

Answer: Please see question 2.

17. Are proposals for work in countries other than those listed eligible to apply at this stage?

Answer: Please see question 2.

18. Our team intends to propose a Development concept to advance an innovation to prevent and treat chronic and acute malnutrition among children in complex environments. Are the funders (USAID/ECF) willing to fund a clinical trial to examine the efficacy of an enhanced, low-cost product for child linear growth, malnutrition prevention, cognitive development, EED outcomes, infection incidence and micronutrient status?

Answer: Please see question 6.

19. On page 3, there is a description of complex environments: “Innovation is particularly needed in chronically nutritionally and food-insecure contexts -- in other words, complex

environments where there are persistent or recurrent crises, such as drought, conflict or instability.” Regarding the reference to complex environments in East African settings, can you please further define what is meant by a complex environment?

Answer: At this point we intend to keep this definition broad as stated in the BAA. EOIs are welcome to include a more specific definition if relevant.

20. We understand that the funders are primarily interested in 4 East African countries. Are there preferred regions within the focus countries, specifically within Kenya?

Answer: There are no preferred regions.

21. Can you please let us know if a list of references will count towards the EOI two-page limit?

Answer: EOIs should be limited to two pages and any references should be included in the two page limit. Note at the EOI stage, USAID has no intention of contacting references and providing references will not increase the chance of being invited to co-creation.

22. What is the anticipated timeline for decisions on which concepts will advance to Stage 2 and eventual awards?

Answer: Please see question 14.

23. Given the mix of potential funding sources, does USAID anticipate awardees can recover all project costs including the complete NICRA if awards are funded by Eleanor Crook Foundation instead of USAID?

Answer: Awards made by other donor organizations or agencies as a result of this BAA will follow that organization’s policies as it relates to funding opportunities. The amount of funding available for a specific award and degree to which a concept is funded will be at the discretion of the donor organization or agency.

24. Grants.gov, Synopsis, Estimated Total Program Funding is listed as “\$2,000,000.”

Question: Please confirm that this is \$2,000,000 per funded award, with the expectation that multiple awards might be made.

Answer: Please see question 3.

25. Page 3, Section II, Challenge, first paragraph, states “This includes sustainable, cost-effective and scalable innovative approaches to prevent and treat nutrition vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and mothers and children in the 1,000 days period.” Question: Should the EoI’s research or development idea focus on all three population groups (i.e. adolescent girls, mothers, and children in the first 1,000 days) or can it focus on just one or two of these groups?

Answer: The EOI can focus on one or more of these groups.

26. Page 3, Section II, Challenge, second paragraph, states: “This collaboration focuses in the first instance on East Africa, especially regions of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda that face chronic, complex environmental and developmental challenges and where chronic and acute malnutrition, and food insecurity remain a substantial challenge.” Question: Does USAID anticipate issuing future calls for Expressions of Interest under this BAA focusing on other geographies?

Answer: The BAA is open from one year from the original issue date and we have the right to issue additional addenda under the BAA but it is not known at this time, if future addenda will be issued.

27. Page 5, Section III, The BAA Process, describes the Stage 2 co-creation process. Question: We respectfully request USAID to provide guidance on the expected date of the co-creation event and resulting award period of performance.

Answer: Please see answer to question 13.

28. Can UN agencies apply?

Answer: Yes, UN agencies and Public International Organizations may submit Expressions of Interest.

29. What should be the duration of the proposed solution?

Answer: Timeline for proposed solutions may should be appropriate for the proposed solution and may be multi-year.

30. Is there an indicative average or maximum cost for proposed solutions?

Answer: Please see question 3.

31. The Broad Agency Announcement states: “Funding availability and amounts will depend on the ideas generated during the collaboration process as well as the funding capacity of participating organizations, which are not necessarily limited to USAID.” Does USAID envision being able to release an illustrative funding envelope after Stage 2 in the co-creation process, in order to help prospective applicants formulate responses that are in line with anticipated funding levels?

Answer: Please see question 3- funding levels are anticipated to be developed after Stage 2.

32. Are projects based in the Pacific islands such as Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu eligible for the Nutrition Innovations in Complex environments grant application? Or is the grant only for East African countries?

Answer: Please see question 2.

33. What is the proposed project duration for the EOIs we will be submitting by 1 June?

Answer: Please see question 30.

34. Also, is matched funding encouraged or required?

Answer: Matching funds are not required.

35. We would like to seek a clarification on whether a project on India would be considered in the current call.

Answer: Please see question 2.

36. The BAA for this opportunity mentions a focus on East Africa, "especially regions of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda," but does not otherwise list geographic restrictions. We are unclear as to whether applications from organizations working in geographies outside of East Africa will be accepted for this opportunity.

Answer: Please see question 2.

37. Muso is a Malian-American NGO working in Mali. Given our work in Mali, would Muso be eligible to submit an expression of interest for this opportunity?

Answer: Please see question 2.

38. With regards to the BAA 7200AA18R00044 Nutrition, can this be focused on Latin American countries, such as Guatemala?

Answer: Please see question 2.

39. In the opportunity announcement it says that: *"Public, private, for-profit, **and nonprofit organizations**, as well as institutions of higher education, public international organizations, non-governmental organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. governmental organizations, multilateral and international donor organizations are eligible to receive awards under this BAA."* We would like to verify, if we as a Peruvian (so non-U.S.) Non-profit organization are eligible to receive an award under this funding opportunity?

Answer: Non-US, non profit organizations are eligible to apply under this announcement.

40. Moreover it says that the project shall be executed in "Complex Environments". In the provided document it says too, that complex environments are understood as **"environments where there are persistent or recurrent crises, such as drought, conflict or instability."** Could you please specify this further? Are there specific key areas/countries, where the project should be executed for this funding opportunity set by USAID? And especially important for us, is Perú one of them?

Answer: Please see questions 2 and 20.

41. Can one organization submit multiple Expression of Interests?

Answer: Yes. The BAA states more than one EOI may be submitted by an organization.

42. As a Category 1 Public International Organization (PIO) under ADS 308 (which sets forth USAID's mandatory policies and required procedures on assistance awards to PIOs). As a PIO, we would like to confirm that should CIP be successful, the applicable funding mechanism would be the CGIAR mechanism and that the ADS 308 provisions would apply to CIP. We also would like to verify that should CIP participate as a sub-

awardee under a prime applicant, in accordance with ADS 303.3.21 (c) “for sub-awards to PIOs”, it would be subject to the terms and conditions contained in the “Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to PIOs in ADS 308”?

Answer: The assumption is correct. The instrument type is not known at this stage but the applicable provisions will apply based on the resultant instrument type.

43. Could USAID provide an expected project duration for the potential interventions? Is there an expectation that this be a one year or a multi-year intervention?

Answer: The resultant awards could be one year or multi-year interventions.

44. Could you please confirm that I could receive funds as a scientist?

Answer: We are inviting legal entities, not individuals to apply for funding in response to this BAA.

45. Is USAID looking for “products” or implementation strategies? If products, are there existing and desired distribution channels—for example, existing implementers—for proposed “products” or will USAID be looking to the proposals for both the product and the distribution strategy? If there are current desired channels, can USAID provide connections to these implementers?

Answer: Please see question 6.

46. We are currently partnered on a number of opportunities in the target area, including related work in Kenya, what is the expectation that we will leverage our existing partnerships as a resource?

Answer: Partnerships and leveraging will be determined during the co-creation process.

47. Will USAID consider proposals from small businesses, and, if so, what percent of co-investment are you expecting to see?

Answer: There are no restrictions for small businesses to apply. USAID does not have specific co-investment parameters in mind. That is up to the applicant to determine.

48. Is USAID planning on having target users / potential beneficiaries at the co-creation workshop? If there won't be a co-creation workshop, how will USAID facilitate user-centered design for this BAA?

Answer: USAID is planning either a co-creation workshop or smaller targeted meetings. Please note that a workshop in this case can mean a conference-like meeting where all organizations invited to co-create are invited at the same time, or where multiple targeted meetings will take place. USAID will determine its co-creation approach after EOIs have been received and are reviewed. Those firms or organizations invited to co-create will be notified in June 2018.

49. Is it permitted to submit an expression of interest which covers more than one country?

Answer: Yes.

50. Is it permitted to submit an expression of interest as a lead applicant for one consortium whilst also be named as a consortium member on an expression of interest by another consortium lead

Answer: Yes.

51. Are applicants allowed to submit more than one EOI?

Answer: Please see question 42.

52. Will the testing, implementation, research and/or scaling funded under this BAA be limited to take place only in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda?

Answer: Please see question 2.

53. Can the same BAA EOI be submitted for more than one solicitation?

Answer: Yes. Please see questions 16 and 42.

54. If we include a reference list, is that counted as part of the 2-page limit?

Answer: Yes, Please see question 22.

56. Is it necessary for organizations who submit an EOI for this RFA to have active partnerships in the priority countries (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Rwanda) in order to be considered competitive to move to stage 2/co-creation of concept paper stage, or will the co-creation and co-development of the concept paper stage be an opportunity for the formation of country-collaborations for various proposed initiatives?

Answer: It is not a requirement of this solicitation to have active partnerships in priority countries, and that will not necessarily make a firm or organization more competitive to move onto the co-creation stage. The purpose of a Broad Agency Announcement is to solicit Expressions of Interest from eligible entities that can provide innovative approaches to the problem statement outlined in the BAA. The co-creation stage can be a good opportunity for organizations to form collaborations and realize synergies and work together for similar proposed initiatives.