

Annex A - USAID's Responses to the Questions
Activity Title: Building Healthy Families Activity
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number: 72039122RFA00003

Question No. 1: Areas to be implemented: KP and Sindh (Please confirm)

USAID/Pakistan Response: Geographic priorities include Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh with flexibility to implement nationwide.

Question No. 2: Age groups to focus: Pregnant lactating women and children under 5 and WRA. (or it could be focused on whole family) and more emphasis on Pregnant lactating women and children under 5 and WRA

USAID/Pakistan Response: Primarily the activity will benefit men and women of reproductive age, including newborn and children. The project will also address the FP/MNCH needs of youth and young couples.

Question No. 3: Them. Primarily Family planning and spacing between children. My query is this that how much nutrition, anaemia and SBCC around nutrition and balance diverse diet will be having space in this proposal as the situation analysis says this but indicators are mainly around FP “sis Women of reproductive age (WRA) bear the double burden of malnutrition. One in seven are undernourished, while 38 percent are considered overweight or obese. Pregnant women require a diverse diet rich in vitamins and minerals though this is rarely the case in Pakistan. Forty-two percent of WRA are anemic, while 27 percent and 21 percent are deficient in vitamin A and zinc, respectively. On top of that, over 40 percent of children under five years are stunted and 18 percent are wasted – 2.5 million children are currently estimated to be severely wasted (Pakistan National Nutrition Survey 2018). Child malnutrition is the biggest contributor to under-five mortality due to greater susceptibility to infections and slow recovery from illness. These statistics not only negatively impact the health of Pakistan's population, but also have grave implications for climate change, environmental impact, and social stability.

USAID/Pakistan Response: Basic nutrition interventions can be supported as part of the maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) package of interventions. Please note that the overall budget split is estimated to be around 70 percent for FP and 30 percent for MNCH. The FP and MNCH budget splits can also be interpreted through the illustrative indicators table provided in the PD. Additionally, the COVID-19 response interventions are dependent on the availability of resources and Pakistan's need and epidemiology to program COVID-19 funds.

Question No. 4: Can WHO apply as lead?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Any entity meeting the requirements of “Section C: Eligibility Information” is eligible to submit an application. However, the entity must submit their application in accordance with the terms of the Notice of Funding Opportunity to be eligible for consideration and must be willing to adhere to the [standard provisions](#) of the resultant Cooperative Agreement including submitting to our audit requirements. For any further questions on eligibility requirements, please contact Mr. Faisal Jawad at fjawad@usaid.gov.

Question No. 5: Can WHO be lead in submitting one proposal and could a co-lead in other.

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please see “Section C - LIMITATIONS ON SUBMISSIONS” regarding teaming arrangements. For any further questions on eligibility requirements, please contact Mr. Faisal Jawad at fjawad@usaid.gov.

Question No. 6: Could USAID please provide an illustrative start and end dates for project?

USAID/Pakistan Response: September 30, 2022 - September 29, 2027 may be considered as an estimated start and end date of the award.

Question No. 7: Could USAID please confirm if applicants' proposed sub-partners should also submit Certifications and Assurances?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The submission of Certification and Assurances are only required for the prime applicants.

Question No. 8: Could USAID please provide an updated link to the Certifications and Assurances, as the link currently included in the RFA seems to be faulty.

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please see the updated link - <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mav.pdf>

Question No. 9: Considering this contracting out Primary Health Care in several districts in coming months and year, the district level responsibilities will be transferred to the private partners. Then for district level intervention strategies, the project management team has to engage multiple partners. How the Results and activities related to specific results will be aligned with this Health Sector Policy of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

USAID/Pakistan Response: We advise applicants to propose strategies that are aligned with host government plans and priorities and are relevant to the country's context.

Question No. 10: Does USAID have specific priority geographies (districts) to focus on under the project?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The Program Description notes the geographic focus of the proposed activity will be limited to the federal level and two provinces (Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), with the possibility of extending coverage nationwide.

Question No. 11: Given the volatility in exchange rate, can USAID please provide an exchange rate for applicants to use.

USAID/Pakistan Response: USAID/Pakistan will not provide an exchange rate.

Question No. 12: Attachment B: Summary Budget Template includes a row for leveraged funds, but there are no other mentions or additional instructions in section D.7 for leveraged funds. Can USAID please clarify whether leverage funds are required and provide some additional guidance if so?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Leverage funding as defined in ADS 303 is not required. However, there is no prohibition on proposing leverage funding. If applicable, the applicant must use the relevant section of "Attachment B: Summary Budget Template" to reflect the leverage funding. Please see the amended NOFO for further guidance.

Question No. 13: Section D.7.d (p38) indicates that cost share should be broken out by year and by major budget categories, however Attachment B: Summary Budget Template only includes a total row for cost share per year (not broken out by major budget categories). Can USAID please clarify whether cost share needs to be broken out by major budget categories or only by year.

USAID/Pakistan Response: “Attachment B: Summary Budget Template” is for the summary budget only. However, as required in Section D.7.d, submission of a detailed budget is also required, including breakdown of the cost share.

Question No. 14: The NOFO emphasizes building systems and institutions but does not call out preservice education. Is there scope in this project to strengthen preservice education?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The health system (public and private providers, policy makers and managers, etc) encompasses human resources. Strengthening health systems is a complex process and requires multiple interventions. The applicant should propose the package of interventions that they feel is most likely to achieve USAID's expected results within the period of performance and budget parameters. This will be based on the applicant's analysis of the context, which includes the most salient barriers and facilitators of results.

Question No. 15: Given the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on staff availability, would USAID consider giving applicants an additional two weeks for submission?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The application submission date is extended to June 16, 2022.

Question No. 16: The NOFO consistently refers to FP/MNCH services with required indicators including # of women who give birth who received a uterotonic and # of newborns not breathing at birth who received resuscitation (pg 13). Illustrative activities under Result 1 include building capacity at provincial level to scale up MNCH HIP such as KMC, treatment for PPH, and interventions to promote exclusive breastfeeding. Illustrative activities under Result 3 include SBC to encourage care seeking for safe delivery. However, there is no mention of MNCH illustrative activities under Result 2. Could USAID clarify whether this activity is expected to directly support improvement in availability of quality MNCH products and services other than FP/PPFP?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please note that the Program Description (PD) provides clear examples of MNCH specific indicators for the Result 2 in the illustrative indicator table. Please also refer to “Section 2.5. Results/Logical Framework and Intended Results” of the PD that provides further clarification about improved utilization of quality FP/MNCH product and services. Also, the PD only provides illustrative interventions against the three result areas, the Applicants are expected to propose solutions beyond illustrative interventions given in the PD.

Question No. 17: Would USAID consider allowing applicants to submit the required log frame as an annex given page limitations?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The applicants must submit a Logical Framework as an annex to the technical application. Please see the amended NOFO for updated submission requirements.

Question No. 18: On page 22, the NOFO indicates that an illustrative AMELP must be included in the proposal. However, an AMELP is not listed as one of the allowable annexes on page 32. Could USAID please confirm if the AMELP is required and if so, can it be included as an allowable annex?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Submission of illustrative AMELP with application is not required. Any reference to submission of an illustrative AMELP has been removed from the Program Description. Please see the amended NOFO.

Question No. 19: On page 18, the NOFO references a gender analysis that was undertaken for this activity design. Could USAID provide a copy to applicants?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Gender Analysis conducted by USAID/Pakistan for this activity is attached as Attachment H to the amended NOFO.

Question No. 20: Would USAID consider extending the deadline for submission by one week to allow applicants adequate time to make any adjustments based on the responses to questions?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please see answer to Question No. 15.

Question No. 21: Could USAID confirm that the history of performance described on page 36 of the NOFO is only required for the prime applicant?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The submission of "History of Performance" as an annex is no more required. Please see the amended NOFO for updated submission requirements.

Question No. 22: There is some missing information on page 23 Section B: Federal Award Information. Can USAID confirm that the \$TBD is \$40,000,000 as stated on page 1?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Section B: Federal Award Information will include the final negotiated amount at the time of award. The amount of \$40,000,000 mentioned in the cover letter is the maximum amount of funding that is currently available for this activity.

Question No. 23: B.3(2)(e), pg. 24. The NOFO references both the titles of a Director of Finance and Operations and Director of Finance/Administration in the Key Personnel section. Can USAID please confirm that the correct title should be Director of Finance and Operations?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Section B.3(2)(e) of the NOFO is updated to reflect Director of Finance and Operations as the correct title of the position. Please see the amended NOFO.

Question No. 24: D.6(a), pg. 32. Could USAID please confirm that Partner Letters of Commitment needs to be a part of the Technical Application rather than a part of the Business (Cost) Application?

USAID/Pakistan Response: "Partner Letters of Commitment" must be part of technical application as an annex.

Question No. 25: D.6(b), pg. 32. Along with flexibility in point size, may Applicants use a different font (i.e., not Times New Roman) for text boxes, footnotes, tables, graphs, and charts to ease legibility?

USAID/Pakistan Response: No, the applicant must submit the application in the format required by the NOFO.

Question No. 26: D.6(c)(4), pg. 34. Would USAID please consider allowing Applicants to include institutional experience and past success of all partners and not only major subrecipients? This will enable Applicants to provide USAID with a more comprehensive narrative of expertise and experience.

USAID/Pakistan Response: No, the applicants can only submit this information for "prime Applicant and its major subrecipient(s)."

Question No. 27: D.7(c)(1), pg. 37. The Required Certifications and Assurances states: "Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient" ADS 303mav document found at: <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mav.pdf>. However, the link does not work. Could USAID please share the link to the Required Certifications and Assurances that need to be

completed and submitted with application, or confirm that the correct link is:
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/303mav.pdf>

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please see answer to Question No. 8.

Question No. 28: D.6, pgs. 32-33. Could USAID confirm which file type the proposal should be submitted in?

USAID/Pakistan Response: The technical application shall be submitted via Microsoft Word or PDF formats. Please see amended NOFO for updated submission requirements.

Question No. 29: D.6(c)(5), pg. 36. In the History of Performance Annex, could USAID please confirm if major subrecipient(s) must also provide information regarding its recent history of performance to complement the Applicant requirement?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please see answer to Question No. 21.

Question No. 30: Can USAID confirm the procedures for vetting local partners at the proposal stage?

USAID/Pakistan Response: Prior to award, the highest rated applicants will be notified to fulfill vetting requirements. The vetting requirement is the same for U.S. and Local organizations.

Question No. 31: On page 14, USAID states that “the activity will increase utilization of quality voluntary FP/MNCH services primarily among young and newly married couples”, is USAID also open to designs that include young women and adolescent girls.

USAID/Pakistan Response: The applicant should propose the package of interventions that they feel is most likely to achieve USAID's expected results within the period of performance and budget parameters. This will be based on the applicant's analysis of the context, which includes the most salient barriers and facilitators of results.

Question No. 32: Please confirm that an illustrative AMELP is not required at the proposal stage per NOFO, page 22.

USAID/Pakistan Response: Please see answer to question no. 18.

Question No. 33: Please confirm the total program funding amount is \$40,000,000 as stated on grants.gov, as no value was identified in the solicitation.

USAID/Pakistan Response: The cover letter of the NOFO indicates \$40,000,000 as a maximum funding for this activity.

Question No. 34: Please confirm if Pakistani parastatal organizations (such as public universities) are eligible to receive sub agreements under this NOFO.

USAID/Pakistan Response: The decision for a teaming arrangement is up to the prime applicant. However, the applicant must take into consideration the requirements of SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION, applicable standard provision and code of federal regulations. For any further questions on eligibility requirements, please contact Mr. Faisal Jawad at fjawad@usaid.gov.

[End of USAID's Responses to the Questions]