

AMENDMENT NO.1 TO RFA-617-10-000004

- 1- Could USAID please describe clearly the distinction between the TMA/MEA/FMA roles and what is expected of the current RFA? For example, will the TMA only work with the CSF grantees while the current RFA plans to continue working with Local Government through TSO?

USAID Response: Applicants should plan to work with all OVC implementing partners at Local Governments through TSO. The CSF agents' role is already explained in the RFA.

- 2- Could USAID please clarify the following statement under Objective 3: “The successful applicant should propose strategies and structures needed to provide both technical and management capacity building (annual, planning proposal writing, M&E, data analysis and reporting, use and accountability of public funds) through TSOs, of local government and civil society in the areas of quality improvement and coordination of care.” We fail to see the link between technical and management capacity building in the above mentioned areas and quality improvement and coordination of care.

USAID Response: The applicant should propose to USAID what link they think can achieve the objective in the RFA.

- 3- Since the TSO have already been evaluated, would it be a problem to pre-select some of those as TSO given the requirement of starting up in year 1.

USAID Response: The requirement in the RFA is that TSOs will competitively be selected by the recipient of this award.

- 4- Should we be planning to develop additional modules to the MIS which UNICEF is creating for use at local levels or is this function being handled by someone else?

USAID Response: The recipient of this award will collaborate with UNICEF and the MGLSD to achieve objective 2 of the RFA.

- 5- Under Special Considerations (page 16), the last bullet reads: “The applicant is expected to establish the value contribution of GOU and other donors both at national and district level.” Can USAID please provide more information on how the applicant should demonstrate this in the application?

USAID Response: USAID expects that the applicant will convincingly argue how the value of the GOU and other donors both at national and district level will be incorporated into the program.

- 6- Can USAID confirm if all districts have functioning hardware and software to manage the OVC-MIS and web based report? Should provision for this be included in the bid?

USAID Response: The applicant should use their knowledge of the conditions in the districts as the basis for their argument in the application.

- 7- Please confirm that the use of a commercial provider of services is allowable under this cooperative agreement.

USAID Response: This RFA is under a full and open competition and therefore the applicant is allowed to work with either for profit or non profit organizations to achieve results under this activity. However, for-profit organizations cannot charge profit and fee. Applicants may propose subcontract relationships with service providers as part of their approach.

- 8- The RFA states that the TSOs will be competitively solicited by the successful applicant on behalf of the MGLSD and managed in partnership with the prime partner and the MGLSD. Can USAID please clarify if the TSOs will be directly contracted to the project or through the MGLSD?

USAID Response: TSOs will be directly contracted by the recipient of this award but is expected to work with the MGLSD.

- 9- Could USAID please clarify who will fund the work of the TSOs?

USAID Response: The recipient of this award will fund TSOs.

- 10- Regarding project personnel documentation, the RFA requests letters of intent to participate for those not already employed by the proposing organization, or letters of commitment. Could USAID please confirm if both of these types of letters are required only for key personnel?

USAID Response: Letters of commitment are required for only key personnel.

- 11- USAID requests past performance references of programs implemented over the past five years. Could USAID please confirm the number of past performance references it would like applicants to submit, including prime and sub-partners?

USAID Response: The applicant should provide past performance references relevant or similar to this program over the last three to five years. No more than ten references are requested.

Under the cost application categories listed on page 27, “Other Direct Costs” includes equipment. However, equipment is listed as a separate budget category. Can USAID please confirm where equipment costs should be listed?

USAID Response: Equipment costs should be stand alone. Exclude them from other direct costs and post them to the separate category.

- 12- Could USAID please clarify the requirements for information on the applicant’s financial status and management at the bottom of page 27? Does USAID require that applicants submit both financial reports for the previous 3-year period, as well as NICRA information? Could USAID please clarify bullet **b**. “NICRA is applicable (This full and open competition (see cover letter)). A NICRA from such organizations would be expected. However, if your organization does not have a NICRA, please submit it.” Could USAID please clarify which organizations are being referred to and what should be submitted in place of the NICRA? Also, is this information required for both the prime and sub-partners?

USAID Response: A NICRA is a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. Applicants who do not have a NICRA but have proposed indirect costs based on an indirect rate should support the rate with copies of audited financial reports for the previous three years. Applicants with a NICRA should submit a copy along with their applications/proposals, but do not need to submit financial reports to support the NICRA.

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- 13- Under the section on requirements for the cost application (top of page 28), paragraph **D** describes certification required of applicants on policies. The paragraph however, states that these are not required until the negotiation stage with USAID. Can USAID please confirm that this certification is not required at the application stage?

USAID Response: The certifications mentioned on paragraph “d”, Pg 28 in the RFA can be submitted with the application/proposal if the applicant has them ready. Where the applicant has not been able to submit them along with the application, the negotiator will request them in the later negotiations.

- 14- At the bottom of page 28, the RFA states: “The Government may award one or more cooperative agreement”. Could USAID please confirm that only one award will be made under this RFA?

USAID Response: Please refer to the terms and conditions of the RFA. That is to say “The Government may award one or more cooperative agreement”

- 15- On page 28, under the cost application requirements, USAID lists information (paragraphs A-F) that the application should include. Could USAID please clarify in what format the applicant should submit this information?

USAID Response: These requirements should be addressed in the budget notes/narrative. The applicant may attach any evidentiary material that supports the budget notes/narrative

- 16- Can USAID please confirm that bullet F on page 28 referring to the certifications and representations should read Section E and not Section F?

USAID Response: Certifications and representations should read Section E.

- 17- Can USAID please provide more information on how the activities in this RFA will link with the TMA? Particularly in the two following areas: 1) “the applicant should propose activities to reinforce government’s participation in reviewing and approving proposals from NGOs / CBOs applying for grants” and 2) “the local government and the TMA will monitor how quality of care activities will be integrated in programs of recipients of the CSF”.

USAID Response: The applicant is expected to demonstrate this issue to USAID, showing how the applicant will enhance coordinated efforts of OVC response at district level.

- 18- Can USAID please advise whether or not sub-partners are also required to sign the certifications and representatives in addition to a prime applicant?

USAID Response: This is a requirement for all, both primes and subs.

- 19- Is a consultancy firm eligible for this contract?

USAID Response: USAID has no predetermined position for which organization that can apply for this grant. All organizations that meet the terms and conditions of this RFA are free to apply.

- 20- Will this be a single award or are multiple awards envisaged?

USAID Response: Please refer to response of question No.14

- 21- Anticipated results (page 11): are these indicative guidelines or binding outputs which must be maintained in the development of the proposal?

USAID Response: These are binding outputs.

- 22- The RFA indicates that 80 Districts will be supported with “small” grants – does USAID anticipate that these grants will be made by the Recipient directly to the Districts OR that the grants will be given through the TSO’s?

USAID Response: These grants will be made by the Recipient directly to the Districts not TSOs.

- 23- What is the minimum or maximum amount envisaged by USAID for these “small grants”? What is the proportion of funding USAID expects to go to grants versus other technical assistance and program administration?

USAID Response: The maximum estimated amount for subgrants is \$10.6m out of the \$20m total amount for this ward.

- 24- RFA anticipates work with 80 Districts? There are 7 newly created recently approved by Parliament (Amudat, Buikwe, Buyende, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Otuke and Zombo). Will additional funds be allocated to cover these districts and any others that may be subsequently created?

USAID Response: For this RFA, USAID has budgeted for only 80 districts and will maintain this number.

- 25- Would the prime be considered the Technical Management Agent to the Civil Society Fund for OVC?

USAID Response: No. The TMA for CSF/OVC has already been awarded to Chemonics Inc. The recipient of this award will provide capacity building and systems strengthening of 80 districts and selected CSOs within these districts.

- 26- In view of the time taken to ask and respond to questions on the RFA, will USAID consider an extension of the period for submission of applications?

USAID Response: No. USAID does not intend to change the closing date of this RFA.

- 27- May you give clarification as to whether this RFA is for the existing TSO or District Local Governments can also apply for the same since they are currently implementing similar grants under the CSF to improve response for OVC by lower local governments and other OVC service providers?

USAID Response: This RFA intends to solicit for an Implementing Partner who will use the current TSO model to work with local governments on building capacity and systems strengthening the of Local Governments response to vulnerable children. Therefore, the district local governments are the recipients of the services and cannot under this RFA.

- 28- Is there a minimum amount to apply for or if USAID looks for only one partner/ consortium for the full funding amount of 20 Million US\$.

USAID Response: The total estimated cost for this award is U\$20m. USAID has made an independent estimation and thinks this amount is sufficient to implement the program.