

Notice of Intent to Solicit for Assistance Applications for Nepal's Early Grade Reading Program Activity "Community Mobilization"

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-367-14-000001

The United States Government represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Kathmandu, Nepal posts this Notice of Intent to solicit applications for the upcoming Early Grade Reading Program (EGRP) Activity entitled "Community Mobilization" in selected districts of Nepal. Concepts Notes follow below.

The purpose of the forthcoming application notice will be to attract applications to enhance the Government of Nepal (GoN) efforts to improve the reading abilities of grades 1-3 public primary students in Nepal through the National Early Grade Reading Program. The USAID/Nepal Community Mobilization Activity is a key component of USAID's planned interventions under the Early Grade Reading Program to support the GoN to improve reading abilities.

Activity Concept Notes:

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR READING, GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT and SAFE SCHOOLS

This component will involve evidence based approaches to social mobilization of parents, guardians, communities and other relevant stakeholders in support of improved reading outcomes for children. The Recipient will develop innovative and cost effective approaches to work in close collaboration with civil society experts in Nepal who have extensive expertise in education.

Illustrative interventions under this approach may include:

SOCIAL CONTRACTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON READING: The project will equip School Management Committees (SMCs), Community Learning Centers (CLCs) and Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) with tools that the communities will use to track individual household support on reading, monitor school attendance of both teachers and students, and monitor school timetables and use of instructional time.

PARENTAL/COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGNS FOR READING: The project will conduct social mobilization campaigns that will inform parents and communities on the importance and value of reading and household support for students reading. Activities will bolster a reading culture among students and sensitize communities of the importance of developing this foundational skill for life. Community teams of authors and illustrators will develop supplementary reading materials for students use in the home, complementing school-based instruction.

READING FAIRS: The project will organize and promote school-based fairs on a quarterly basis. At these fairs, students, with the facilitation of teachers, will showcase gains in their reading abilities. Parents will be given opportunities to test the reading skills of their children through random selection of text, spelling bees, and reading competitions in order to mitigate the effects of repetitive testing. The Recipient will work with target

schools to organize an annual end of year fair where teachers and students are acknowledged for performance.

SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: Expand the USAID Safe Schools Initiative to Nepal to decrease the acceptability of gender-based violence among students, teachers, school administrators, and parents; improve physical safety of school environment; and improve school- and community-level policies and tools for preventing, addressing, and monitoring gender-based violence (GBV) and associated bullying. The project will develop an advocacy network, a teachers' code of conduct, community action plan and pilot the Doorways manuals in Nepal.

INVOLVING OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH: The project will engage disadvantaged populations, including out of school youth and children with disabilities, in reading practice outside of school. Activities will reinforce formal instruction at school, and provide new learning for out of school youth while encouraging them to enroll in school. Youth requiring remedial practice will have access to tutoring to improve reading skills.
[end concept notes]

Place of Performance: Nepal

USAID plans to solicit for applications within the next three to eight months for a program with a total estimated value ranging from US\$8 million to US\$10 million to be implemented over a five year period, subject to the availability of funds.

This is a Notice of Intent only. The Mission is not accepting applications and will not respond to questions or meeting requests from prospective applicants at this time.

Please check grants.gov on a regular basis for the posting of the application for Nepal's Early Grade Reading Program Activity "Community Mobilization."

<http://www.usaid.gov/nepal>