



Date: September 29, 2021

Subject: Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance's responses to questions received on the Request for Applications for a Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSa) in Mozambique released on August 9, 2021 - Funding Opportunity Number: 720BHA21RFA00001

Greetings:

The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) has summarized below the questions that BHA received on the subject Request for Applications (RFA). In addition, BHA has revised the RFA to provide clarity on commodity programming in Section I – Program Description under 3. Goal and Objectives. BHA did not respond to comments received on the RFA individually.

Summary of Questions and Responses:

1. Questions related to geographic targeting

BHA Response: BHA expects applicants to select target districts that are determined to deliver an effective program within the budget limitations. District selection must be supported by data. Applicants are not required to implement activities or program commodities in all ten districts.

2. Questions related to Internal Transport, Storage and Handling (ITSH) and Section 202(e) funding

BHA Response: Please refer to [USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Functional Policies \(BHAFP\) 20-01](#) for more information on eligible uses of Section 202(e) and ITSH. Based on the cost categories outlined in the aforementioned policy and the Section 202(e) funding limits noted in the RFA, applicants should request the amount of Enhanced Section 202(e) funding required to implement the proposed activity.

3. Questions related to the refinement period

BHA Response: BHA expects the refinement period to last approximately 12 months. However, depending on the needs of the activity, context and recipient, the refinement period can be extended.

4. Questions related to the specialized nutritious foods (SNF)

BHA Response: BHA encourages applicants to use the updated [Commodity and Ocean Freights Price Estimates list](#) for information on the fortified blended food products noted in the RFA.

CSB++ is equivalent to the Supercereal Plus Box listed in the BHA Commodity and Ocean Freights Price Estimates list.



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In order to make CSB+ a complete specialized nutritious food, applicants will need to program it with fortified vegetable oil that is purchased locally. Applicants should not plan to import vegetable oil.

USAID/BHA is sharing some initial pricing estimates that can be used for program planning and design purposes with the precautionary note that these are preliminary estimates from industry and that potential price volatility should be anticipated before any commodities would likely be called forward. If there is an interest in use of these commodities in the programming activities under design, the following pricing estimates can be used:

Small Quantity LNS for children: **\$5150/MT or \$61.80/carton**

Small Quantity LNS for pregnant and women in lactation: **\$5500/MT or \$66.00/carton**

Medium Quantity or Balanced Energy Protein (BEP) LNS for women: **\$4000/MT or \$50.40/carton**

In addition, BHA is attaching here the three product specifications currently available for the LNS products noted in the RFA, which should be used by applicants for reference only.

5. Questions related to commodity programming

BHA Response: BHA is not dictating to partners a specific package of interventions but will evaluate applicants on the technical soundness and rationale for their approach. Applicants can program SNF to any age group and are not limited to programming SNFs for pregnant and lactating women and children 6-23 months of age. The RFA makes the case for a life cycle approach and seeks to focus attention on improving the nutrition of adolescent girls.

BHA is working with the Government of Mozambique to formalize an agreement to allow the importation of the SNF commodities listed in the RFA, thus applicants must select commodities from the SNF table in Section I – Program Description. The RFSA will use BHA’s call forward mechanism to order these commodities for delivery.

6. Questions related to layering, sequencing and integration of interventions

BHA Response: BHA expects the RFSA will be layered and sequenced with other relevant activities and interventions to maximize impact. However, joint outcomes with these activities are not expected. Applicants must demonstrate a clear understanding of the implementing actors present in their proposed districts and present a clear description of how layering and sequencing will be achieved. The refinement period will be an opportunity to revise this plan as needed.



7. Questions related to activity design

BHA Response: Applicants should propose and prioritize sectors and activities that they identify as important to meeting the objectives listed in the RFA.

8. Questions related to the impact evaluation

BHA Response: BHA will contract and manage a third-party firm to conduct the activity's impact evaluation or population-based baseline study and final evaluation. Still, the implementing partner will be engaged during the baseline survey design and will have the opportunity to provide inputs.

9. Questions related to key personnel

BHA Response: Applicants must adhere to the education requirement listed in Section IV for the Nutrition Technical Lead. For the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead role, applicants can substitute an advanced degree (Masters) for a bachelor's degree in a relevant academic area (listed in the RFA) and a minimum five years of applicable experience.

Additionally, applicants should decide the place of performance for key personnel and demonstrate how the staffing structure and placement ensures quality implementation and program oversight.

10. Questions related to annexes and page limits

BHA Response: Divider sheets do not count towards the page limit.

11. Questions related budget submission including budget period and narrative template

BHA Response: Please refer to the cost application and budget annex requirements listed in Section IV – Application and Submission Information. BHA suggests applicants use the sample budget narrative template linked in the RFA; however, applicants can use their own template if all the required information requested in the RFA is included. In addition, all budgets must be completed on a fiscal year basis.

12. Questions related to exclusive letters

BHA Response: BHA is not in favor of exclusivity agreements between the prime applicant and sub-awardees or with staff.

13. Questions related to indicator selection

BHA Response: Applicants should include any indicator, from the [BHA Indicators List](#), that apply to the activity's objectives.



14. Questions related to implementing partners

BHA Response: Engaging government ministries and their employees as implementing partners is allowable under exceptional circumstances as described in the Automated Directives System (ADS). Applicants should refer to [ADS 303.3.21\(b\)-\(c\)](#) for guidance on subawards to partner government entities, as well as the [Policy Guidance on Criteria for Payment of Salary Supplements for Host Government employees](#).

15. Questions related to formative research

BHA Response: During the refinement period, U.S. and Mozambican graduate students can assist in formative research exercises.