

**Questions Received for APS Number M/OAA/GH/POP-19-0110,
Inform Decision-Makers to Act (IDEA)**

1) I would like to ask for some clarification regarding geographic focus of the cooperative agreements. I notice that on page 11 of the APS (IDEA) it states "the Office of PRH has identified sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) as a region of focus. Awards under this APS are specifically expected to advance one or more of the cross-cutting issues.... in sub-Saharan Africa initiative." Does this mean that any cooperative agreement awarded must address sub-Saharan Africa?

Response: Applicants are expected to give priority attention to the following high-need countries:

Africa: DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Sudan
ANE: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Yemen, Nepal
LAC: Haiti

A majority of the priority countries are in sub-Saharan Africa. Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to address issues specific to sub-Saharan Africa in their responses.

2) You require one copy of our concept paper (saved as pdf) emailed to this address (aharris@usaid.gov), correct? Or through grants.gov?

Response: USAID requires all concept papers to be sent to aharris@usaid.gov in PDF form.

3) The Annual Program Statement (APS) MOAAGHPOP-19-0110 notes that of the proposed US \$50 million ceiling, \$35 million is from the Office of Population and Reproductive Health, and \$15 million is "from field support, including US Missions." Are there any focus countries or regions for this APS? What process will be used to engage USAID Missions or other field support sources to get their buy-in?

Response: Please see the list of priority countries in the response to question 1. The same process that is used for all of global projects will be used to engage USAID Missions or other field support sources; i.e. the applicant can use its own contacts to engage USAID missions or other fields support sources to get buy-in and USAID can also do the same.

4) The Concept Note Organizational Capability scoring criteria do not include USAID experience, thus encouraging small US-based organizations not presently receiving such funding to apply and to apply as primes. However, Organizational Capability and Past Performance scoring criteria for the full proposal suggest a significant degree of importance will be placed on prior USAID experience. Please advise how organizations with limited past USAID experience that score well on the criteria for the concept note can be competitive since the criteria for the review of the full proposal highlights past USAID experience.

Response: In the concept paper stage, Past Performance is not included as one of the evaluation criteria. Past Performance comes into review at the full technical proposal stage. On page 8, Organizational Capability and Past Performance, bullet #2, "satisfactory business relationship with USAID" is a part of the applicants past performance but it does not encompass everything that is needed in order to earn 10 pts. If an applicant does not have "satisfactory business relationship with USAID," then they can still earn points on all of the other factors listed in this bullet and based on their past performance with other donors.

5) The purpose of the IDEA (APS) is to engage and increase support among key decision-makers working on health and population policies. How will the technical review panel judge and weight proposed communications strategies and experience in cause related marketing and campaign advocacy?

Response: The technical evaluation committee will review the applications based on the criteria given.

6) Should the applicant's approach to Monitoring and Evaluation be discussed in the concept paper? There is no mention of M&E in Section II. C. of the APS.

Response: Concept papers will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in section II C.

7) Must the proposed Project Director and/or other key technical personnel enumerated in the APS serve in a full time capacity throughout the project?

Response: The level of effort for the Project Director and/or key technical personnel should be estimated in accordance with the activities proposed.

8) If an applicant chooses to address more than one Project Result, must each have its own Project Director and would each have to be full-time?

Response: NO

9) If the applicant proposes to address more than one Project Result, must it allocate equal levels of effort to each?

Response: No

10) The RFA indicates that the applicant's concept paper must identify the countries that it proposes to target. Since particular USAID missions may or may not choose to contribute funds for field support under the APS, can and will USAID identify country missions that it expects to participate under the APS?

Response: Please see the list of priority countries in the response to question 1.

11) Is it correct to assume that countries that APS applicants commit to target for intervention should be drawn from USAID PRH's current priority countries?

Response: Please see the list of priority countries in the response to question 1.

12) Does capacity building as described under Project Result 3 include technical assistance to individuals and institutions as they implement their advocacy with policymakers?

Response: Yes, capacity building can include technical assistance to individuals and institutions as they implement their advocacy with policymakers.

13) In its description of Project Result #3 (p. 13 of the APS) USAID mentions that it envisions continued support through the APS of a PRH program Fellow. Does that Fellow receive his/her assignments from and report to PRH rather than to APS grantee(s)? And must the cost of the Fellow be included as part of the applicant's budget?

Response: The Fellow will receive his/her assignments from and report to PRH rather than to the APS grantee(s). Yes, the cost of the Fellow must be included as part of the applicant's budget.

14) Can an organization be bid on more than one concept note—can it prime one concept note and serve as a sub on another?

Response: An organization can submit a concept paper for one, all, or a combination of project result objectives. Yes, an applicant can be a prime on one concept paper and be a sub on another concept paper.

15) On p.4, in describing the technical approach, point 2.b refers to “project activities and outcomes” and point 2.d refers to “illustrative results”. In the rest of the APS, there is mention of “illustrative achievements.” Can you clarify what is meant by “illustrative results”, given that outcomes are included in 2.b?

Response: Please see Amendment 2.

16) Is USAID open to receiving concept notes that include a regional approach or regional coordination?

Response: Yes

17) For Project Result 3, one of the illustrative achievements is "US-based, entry-level professional(s) is/are trained and mentored to become part of the next generation of family planning and reproductive health champions". Is this result expected to be achieved solely through the involvement of the USAID fellow's involvement in the project or is the implementing partner expected to create opportunities for other recent graduates?

Response: As noted above, the Fellow will receive his/her assignments from and report to PRH rather than to the APS grantee(s). However, if the implementing partner has an innovative opportunity for the USAID Fellow, then USAID would be open to considering this as part of the USAID Fellow's scope of work.

18) What are the current priority FP countries, which ones are planned for graduation during the five year workplan period, and which ones are likely to be added to the priority list in the five year workplan period?

Response: Please see the list of priority countries in the response to question 1. Please note that of this list of priority countries, no country is targeted for graduation. At this point we cannot identify additional countries that will be added to the list.

19) Referring to text under the subsection "Geographic Focus" on page 11, could please provide lists of countries that USAID currently considers to be countries 1) "with the greatest unmet need for FP," and 2) "the greatest potential for increasing contraceptive prevalence rates (CPR)?"

Response: Please see the list of priority countries in the response to question 1.

20) Referring to D2 cost application on page 7 and E Criteria for Evaluation on pages 7-8, does the Illustrative First Year Work Plan (bottom of page 8) require an illustrative first year budget separate from the budget information requested under D2?

Response: No