Request for Applications (RFA) Number: RFA-611-15-000008 for the Maternal Newborn and Child Health Project (MNCH) _ Responses to Questions.

1. The presentation letter on the first page states 'USAID/Zambia intends to award a four (4) year Cooperative Agreement', on page 14 the RFA states ' The anticipated program start date is May 2015 for a five year period'.

   Please clarify if the expected duration of the activities is 4 or 5 years.

   Answer: *The performance period for this award will be five (5) years).*

2. On page 1 second paragraph first sentence it states that USAID/Zambia intends to award a four year Cooperative Agreement, but on page 4 a five year period is referenced and on p. 14 Section II Award Information B. Performance Period it states that the program will run for a five year period. Could USAID kindly confirm whether the performance period will be 4 or 5 years?

   Answer*: See response to Question 1.*

3. Given that only local NGOs are eligible to prime, could USAID confirm that USG agreed upon indirect rates for US based international NGO subgrantees are allowable and allocable?

   Answer: *Yes, USG agreed upon indirect rates for US based international NGO subgrantees are allowable.*

4. Although the RFA instructs on page 23 under Phase II – Cost Application Format that the applicant must submit the Cost Application via a separate email from the technical application, please confirm that the full technical application must be submitted via email.

   Answer*: Yes, the Technical Application must be submitted via email.*

5. Can USAID confirm whether there is an annual budget ceiling for each project year? And if yes, what this is?

   Answer: *USAID will not provide an annual budget ceiling.*

6. On page 11 under USAID Partners section third paragraph last sentence it states "It is anticipated that the activities will be transitions to SHOTSS to lead implementation of these activities in the first year of implementation." Could USAID kindly clarify what activities are expected to start under MNCH and then transition to SHOTSS?

   Answer: *These activities include; employment of the SMGL District Coordinators in selected districts and capacity building of community health workers through training of the Safe motherhood Action Groups in all targeted districts.*

7. Could USAID indicate what amount of resources should be earmarked for refurbishments, including procurements related to water for areas such as Lunga and Samfya district?

   Answer: *This will be based on the applicant's on-the-ground knowledge of problems with health facilities through the facility assessments, the applicant should submit an estimate of* *costs that will be incurred for refurbishments. USAID understands that these numbers will be estimates and the actual budget figures will be adjusted once facility assessments are completed by the recipient*

8. Could USAID/Zambia recommend specific Zambian government entities for the applicant to contact regarding co-location?

   Answer: *Applicants are expected to use their knowledge of the conditions and stakeholders in country to identify, form relationships with, and enter into co-location arrangements that are programmatically beneficial to the GRZ and the Recipient.*

9. Pt.3 of eligibility says if the business unit is controlled by permanent residents

   As the Managing Director of Xxxxxx Limited, I am on an employment permit and hence a resident of Zambia for the past 4 years. I am the sole authority in handling the business in Zambia, and have full power and authority to control the election, appointment or tenure of the organizations managers and governing bodies, while the shareholders are in the UK and Kenya. We are a legal entity in Zambia and run our businesses from Lusaka, Zambia.

   Please advise if these are suffice as eligibility for applying for the RFA.

   Answer*: Please review the eligibility criteria and your relevant documentation related to your organization to determine if you are eligible to apply. At this stage in the process, USAID is unable to make that determination with the limited information provided in this question.*

10. What is the feasibility of achieving the deliverables by year the funding seems inadequate?

    Answer: *USAID is confident that the objectives outlined in the RFA can be achieved with the anticipated funding levels.*

11. What do you mean by local organization?

    Answer: The definition of a local organization is outlined in the Eligibility Section of the RFA.

12. Are there any criteria for teaming arrangements?

    Answer: *No there are no criteria for teaming arrangements; however, only one organization (the prime applicant/recipient) will be responsible for responding to USAID.*

13. Do project activities need to be implemented in all districts?

    Answer: *Yes, these are districts selected under the SMGL initiative and is a whole district approach. Therefore activities have to be implemented in all facilities in the selected districts.*

14. What is the view on additional funding for the project?

    Answer: *At this time USAID does not anticipated additional funding for the project.*

15. What is the difference between sub partner and consortium partners?

Answer: *For the purposes of applying for this cooperative agreement, there is no difference as only one organization (the prime partner) will be accountable for the overall award and to USAID.*

16. Does the Zambian NGO Act. Apply to the project?

    Answer*: The successful recipient must comply with local law.*

17. Clarification on key personnel should they be all local?

    Answer: *Please follow the guidance in the RFA.*

18. Clarification on organizations that do not have a NICRA?

    Answer: *Organizations that do not have a NICRA will be allowed to charge a 10% indirect cost rate to modified direct costs per USAID's ADS 303 policy updated on December 26, 2014.*

19. As discussed on Friday the foreign partner cannot have more than 49% of the budget. However, does this mean that the Lead (local organisation) has to have minimum 51% with the rest split between the (local and int'l) partners or all the local partners together have to have minimum 51% with max 49% for the int'l partner.

    Answer: *According to Standard Provision RAA26. Limitations on Subawards to Non-Local Entities, at least 50% of the cost of award performance must be expended for employees of the prime/local entity. This means that the local lead organization must have a minimum of 50% (not 51%) of the funding.*