

Questions on team composition

Question: Are U.S. Universities eligible to serve as lead or partner institutions and award recipients?

Answer: *Yes, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.*

Question: Are U.S. government agencies such as USGS eligible to serve as lead institution and award recipient?

Answer: *No. US Government (Federal) agencies are not eligible for award under this RFA.*

Question: Is it permissible for a MENA partner agency to serve as lead institution and subcontract to a US Government agency such as USGS?

Answer: *No, a US Government (Federal) agency is not eligible for award or subaward under this RFA.*

Question: Is a UNESCO Foundation or Center such as IHE Netherlands eligible to serve as lead institution and award recipient?

Answer: *As long as the agency or foundation meets the criteria of being a legally organized local, regional (i.e., from MENA), or international organization, it may serve as the lead institution for an award.*

Question: We would like to know if Israel, Jordan and Palestine are eligible to submit an application.

Answer: *Yes, as long as the institution, agency or foundation meets the criteria of being a legally organized local, regional (i.e., from MENA), or international organization, it is eligible to submit a proposal.*

Question: I see collaboration is encouraged. Is that with Egyptian, non-Egyptians and US institutions or we can work as a sole organization?

Answer: *Collaboration with institutions throughout the region is preferred but not required. Team composition should be designed to most effectively impact the policy, management or training requirement identified.*

Questions on proposal content

Question: Is the RFA suggesting that we focus on one country and select in collaboration both the topic(s)/theme(s) of interest and the relevant institutes in this particular country? Can we then as part of the project activities identify later other relevant and interested countries and approach them with the request to participate in the "HUB" network? Or should we approach all relevant MENA NWC members during this application period and get their endorsements (as mentioned on page 5, first bullet)?

Relevant Text from RFA

- To be considered for award, all grant applications must be endorsed by the relevant government agency/agencies that will use the results of the grants. Applications

accompanied by a letter from the relevant governmental office indicating that the proposed research or training will directly influence a policy decision or improve water management will be considered endorsed.

Answer: *Work proposed under this grant should be relevant to and, hopefully, directly applied by participating or counterpart government agencies. Rather than broad research of any given topic, it is envisioned that applicants will identify specific management or policy questions that can be informed by work performed under this grant.*

By endorsing the proposals government officials are in no way delegating decision making authority to grant applicants. Rather, government agencies are acknowledging that the question posed is relevant to managing their water resources, and that the outcomes of the research or training will be considered and may impact current practices and/or policies.

Work may impact a given city, basin, country, region or any other geographical or political area. Although work may directly impact only one location, results will be shared with the wider community in order to inform others who may have similar management or policy issues.

Question: Will the annual conference focus on topic(s) that we will be addressing in our proposal application or is the conference dealing with (many) more topics that are being brought in by other MENA NWC members? Should we make provisions in our budget for participation in this conference or are all related costs covered by the (1) special conference grant? As we intend to propose a two-year project will there be one or two annual conferences?

Answer: *It is envisioned that the annual conference will bring together a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to presenting the results of work performed under this grant, it will be open to other institutions that are performing similar work. It is envisioned that most participants will pay for their own travel expenses; however a provision in the proposal to host the conference should be included to pay for some financially disadvantaged participants' expenses.*

There will be two annual conferences.

Question: In the call it's mentioned that "to implement the Office of Middle East Programs (OMEP) Network of Water Centers of Excellence (MENA NWC) project" to my understanding an office means the secretariat office of the network of such centers as raised in Doha meeting, is that what is meant?

Answer: *This grant will not fund the MENA NWC Secretariat.*

Question: Going through the details of the program I see it directed towards training, research, information dissemination, collaboration...focusing on IWRM and conventional/non-conventional optimum use, so applicants are free to choose any of those thematic fields or combine?

Answer: Any topic, or more specifically, issue, that is deemed relevant by a partner or participating governmental agency will be considered. The focus of this grant is to perform work that will directly inform and impact management and policy concerns.

Questions on award process and funding

Question: Estimated Funds to be Available: Subject to the availability of funds, an estimated \$1.5 million is available for this RFA. USAID expects to make multiple awards under this RFA. Applications requesting USAID funding of more than \$500,000 per year will not be eligible for award. Based on the above, do you have an expected average cost for each proposal or is the maximum amount simply \$1 million (over 24 months)?

Answer: There is no expected average cost for each proposal. As noted applications requesting USAID funding of more than \$500,000 per year will not be eligible for award.

Question: Is the maximum allowed budget for a two year proposal \$ one million dollar or one and a half million?

Answer: Applications requesting USAID funding of more than \$500,000 per year will not be eligible for award.

Question: Do you anticipate extending the deadline for submission of proposals from June 8 to a later date?

Answer: There is no intent at this time to extend the deadline for submission of proposals.

Question: Our organization is made up of an alliance of members. Should we include relevant past performance information for work carried out by the Board organizations independently or only for the work that has been done by our organization itself?

Answer: Please provide relevant past performance information both for independent and joint work.

Question: May an organization present several proposals for the same call?

Answer: Yes. However, organizations are not eligible to receive more than one award under this RFA.

Other questions

Question: What is the anticipated relationship to the work that was done as part of the Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI)?

Answer: These grants will build upon the broader body of knowledge developed through ABRI and other initiatives. There are no specific programmatic or contractual ties.