

AMENDMENT NO.1
TO REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) No. 624-15-000003
Sustainable Condom Solutions Project (SCSP)

The purpose of this amendment is to respond to questions raised by applicants as more fully detailed below.

The RFA is amended as follows:

Question 1: Under IR 2, the RFA notes that the SCSP will distribute social marketed condoms and lubricants to fill key gaps. Will USAID provide the condoms and lubricants to the awardee or should the awardee budget for procurement of these commodities in their application?

USAID Response: No, the awardee should not budget for the procurement of these commodities. USAID will provide socially marketed condoms and lubricants to the awardee through another mechanism to fill key gaps. Free no-logo condoms and lubricants are also available through the other mechanism, and it is expected that the SCSP awardee will increase availability, accessibility, and demand for all condom and lubricant types.

Question 2: Under IR 3, to what extent will awardees be expected to directly conduct SBCC activities vs support other IPs to improve their SBCC programming?

USAID Response: The awardee will be expected to work with other IPs to improve their SBCC programming in regards to condom programming and increasing demand for condoms and lubricants. The awardee is asked to improve the social marketing of condoms so this could include larger scale community mobilization activities to support this component of the SCSP.

Question 3: Page 15 notes the following as an illustrative indicator to measure “GoCI/LOE increased” Could USAID kindly elaborate on the intent of this indicator? It is unclear if this project can overall increase GoCI staffing nor if there is specific LOE for GoCI staff dedicated to condoms. As such, this indicator may not be possible to measure.

USAID Response: USAID is asking the awardee to work closely with the GoCI in IR1 to “Strengthen sustainable systems for condom forecasting, procurement, distribution, pricing policy, and promotion” with illustrative activities listed. The indicator provided is an example, and is seeking expert suggestions on how IR1 can be accomplished and measured. Please provide more accurate indicators that are both realistic and achievable in the application.

Question 4: Page 16 includes the following indicator: # and % of beneficiaries reporting that they can obtain a condom when they need one. We suggest that # be removed as it would be difficult to establish the # whereas % can be obtained from a representative survey. We have the same suggestion for indicators 1-6 under IR 3 on page 16.

USAID Response: The indicators provided are examples, and USAID is seeking expert suggestions on how the three IRs can be accomplished and measured. Please provide more accurate indicators that are both realistic and achievable in the application.

Question 5: May applicants propose key personnel at slightly less than 100% Level of Effort?

USAID Response: No, all key personnel should dedicate 100% LOE to the SCSP.

Question 6: Could USAID share further their vision for the role of the Condom Advisor? The RFA states many market failures linked to public sector capacity and coordination. Is USAID envisioning the Condom Advisor would be seconded to the government?

USAID Response: USAID is seeking an awardee who can achieve the vision detailed in the RFA. Since the RFA is focusing on condom and lubricant programming, it is expected that the awardee employ experts in this domain. USAID is also seeking innovative ideas on how to address the various challenges outlined in the RFA. It is expected that the applications will provide a detailed technical and staffing plan that matches the awardees experience and skill set to achieve results.

Question 7: The RFA notes that no cost share is required. However, page 17 discusses public private partnerships and notes an example would be a one-to-one match in funding from the private sector. Could USAID clarify its vision for public private partnerships under this program?

USAID Response: USAID confirms that no cost share is required. The awardee is invited to provide innovative solutions and ideas on how best to leverage PPP in this program. Cote d'Ivoire hosts a variety of private sector companies, and utilizing resources from these entities could benefit both parties.

Question 8: Can USAID kindly confirm that the executive summary does not count toward the 25 page limit?

USAID Response: Yes, USAID confirms that the executive summary does not count toward the 25 page limit.

Question 9: Must past performance references for sub partners also be included in the application or is this required only for the prime applicant? Can USAID confirm that all past performance information should be included in the annexes (as indicated on page 26) and not in the main body of the application (as indicated on page 25).

USAID Response: Past Performance information shall be provided for the prime Applicant. As indicated on page 25, the page limitation of the body of the application "excludes the cover page, the executive summary and the authorized attachments". Past performance is listed as annex III under authorized attachments (page 26).

Question 10: We understand that PEPFAR funding currently supports local structures including Heartland, PSI and ANADER to work with high risk groups including Professional Sex Workers and MSM. Will this type of support continue beyond its current phase due to expire in 2016 or is this RFA intended to replace these type interventions?

USAID Response: No, this RFA is not intended to replace other PEPFAR programs. The SCSP RFA is a unique project focusing entirely on condom and lubricant programming.

Question 11: Applicants are required to submit five (5) past performance references. Does USAID also require past performance information short forms for named sub-recipients, or only the prime bidder?

USAID Response: Past Performance information shall be provided for the prime Applicant.

Question 12: Regarding Part II of the Performance Report Short Form, should this section be completed by the reference agency prior to the proposal submission deadline, or will this be completed by USAID during the review process?

USAID Response: As indicated on the Performance Report Short Form, PART II, Performance Assessment will be completed by USAID.

Question 13: Can budget notes be submitted in PDF?

USAID Response: Yes

Except as herein provided, all other terms and conditions of the RFA, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

End of Amendment No. 1

Amendment issued by:  date: June 1, 2015
Yves Kore, Supervisory Regional Agreement Officer
USAID/West Africa