



March 28, 2012

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS NO. SOL-268-12-000006

Building Alliance for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment (BALADI)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

The purpose of this amendment is to amend certain sections of the RFA and add answers to questions received. The amendment includes adding the pre-application conference, extending the deadline for questions and clarifying eligibility information,

The subject RFA is hereby amended as follows:

1-Cover letter, add:

“Pre-Application Conference to be held on April 5, 2012

Deadline for notification to attend the conference: April 2, 2012 at 3 p.m. Cairo local time.

2-Cover letter, delete the following:

“Deadline for Questions: March 29, 2012, 2:00 pm Cairo Local Time” and **replace with:**

“Deadline for Questions: April 7, 2012, 2:00 pm Cairo Local Time”

3-Cover letter, delete the first paragraph that states:

“On behalf of USAID/Lebanon, the Regional Procurement Office of USAID/Egypt is seeking Assistance Applications from **US** non-governmental entities to implement the program description explained below.” and **replace with:**

“On behalf of USAID/Lebanon, the Regional Procurement Office of USAID/Egypt is seeking Assistance Applications from **Lebanese** non-governmental entities to implement the program description explained below.”

4-Cover letter, after the second paragraph, add the following:

“USAID will hold a pre-application conference on **April 5, 2012** at USAID/Lebanon offices located within the premises of U.S. Embassy in Lebanon (Awkar town, Metn District,

Lebanon) to provide an overview of the RFA and allow having a question and answer session. The exact timing of the conference will be provided through an amendment to this RFA. The deadline to notify USAID for attending the conference is **April 2, 2012 at 3 p.m. Cairo local time. With the confirmation of attendance please provide the names, titles, nationalities, and contact telephone numbers of up to two persons per interested Lebanese NGO.** Please send your questions prior to the conference. Additional questions can be raised at the conference. ”

5- Page 18, Section **III ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**,

Delete:

“Applicants must be non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of Lebanese nationality legally registered in Lebanon and meeting Lebanese laws for NGOs and not branches of foreign NGOs; otherwise there is no restriction.

Replace with:

“Eligible NGO applicants, whether prime or sub-awardees, must be indigenous Lebanese NGOs, i.e. NGOs of Lebanese nationality and origin, legally registered in Lebanon, meeting Lebanese laws for NGOs, not branches of foreign NGOs, and with their home office headquarters located in Lebanon. Foreign NGOs are not eligible to apply as a prime or sub-awardee.”

6- Under **SECTION I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION, item B. DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**, third paragraph on page 4,

Delete:

“Based on the availability of funds, USAID/Lebanon will award up to four, five-year Cooperative Agreements for up to \$6.25 million each to consortia of NGOs that are multi-sectoral, culturally diverse, and willing to work nationwide. See Section D for the Program Description and **Section H** for Selection Criteria.”

Replace with:

“Based on the availability of funds, USAID/Lebanon will award up to four, five-year Cooperative Agreements for up to \$6.25 million each to consortia of NGOs that are multi-sectoral, culturally diverse, and willing to work nationwide. See Section D for the Program Description and **Section V** for Selection Criteria.”

Answers to Questions:

- 1- The first paragraph of the RFA states that “*On behalf of USAID/Lebanon, the Regional Procurement Office of USAID/Egypt is seeking Assistance Applications from US non-governmental entities to implement the program description explained below...*”

Could you please confirm that this RFA is restricted to non-governmental organizations legally registered in Lebanon and not for US based organizations?

Response: This was an error that was corrected in this amendment. Eligible entities are NGO applicants, whether prime or sub-awardees, that must be indigenous Lebanese NGOs, i.e. NGOs of Lebanese nationality and origin, legally registered in Lebanon, meeting Lebanese laws for NGOs, not branches of foreign NGOs, and with their home office headquarters located in Lebanon. Foreign NGOs are not eligible to apply as a prime or sub-awardee. Please see amendment to the RFA above clarifying eligibility information.

- 2- We are a faculty who work with NGOs. We work to build capacities of NGOs in community development work. We execute different developmental interventions. Are we eligible?

Response: Local universities are not eligible under stage 1 i.e. the prime/lead recipient. Local universities are among the entities eligible to partner with municipalities for implementation of stage 2 municipal-community projects. Their services may be subcontracted by the lead NGO using USAID funds, or they may also be subcontracted by the municipality or an NGO as part of community cost share.

Eligible applicants must be indigenous Lebanese NGOs, i.e. NGOs of Lebanese nationality and origin, legally registered in Lebanon, meeting Lebanese laws for NGOs, not branches of foreign NGOs, and with their home office headquarters located in Lebanon.

- 3- Can we as organization for youth apply since we are a small organization but we have experience working with youth and development. Can we apply without registering so the application forms are (project narrative , budget and the two forms of SF242 and 242a , only or there are other forms.

Response:

Please see response to questions 1 and 2 above and amendment to the RFA under Section III Eligibility information.

The applicant must provide all required information in its application, including the requirements found in any attachment to the RFA.

Another question : According to the proposal, the aim of our project can be one of the two objectives of USAID strategies ?

Response:

Applications in response to this solicitation should address BALADI program description completely and including all its objectives as requested in the RFA.

- 4- Would it be possible to have an extension on the deadline:

Response: An extension to the current deadline is not being currently considered.

- 5- Would an amendment to the requirements of the Program Director and Key Personnel take place?

Response: USAID is not considering an amendment to the personnel requirements outlined in Section V, point 3. Personnel, page 24 of the RFA. Applicants are encouraged not to restrict themselves to experts currently within their NGO teams. Applicants may search the Lebanese workforce market for qualifications required by the RFA and propose suitable personnel to be hired locally under their applicant NGOs.

- 6- The RFA document mentions previous projects. Would it be possible for USAID to provide on the web-site or via e-mail any publications, studies, local development plans that resulted from either TAMKIN, EMLED or other projects?

Response: USAID website <http://www.usaid.gov/lb/> contains **relevant** information on previous and ongoing programs. Applicants are encouraged to review the entire website and its sections 'About/Fact Sheets' and 'programs'.